

**BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT**

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**Annual Report**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
AND THE  
**Chief Sanitary Inspector**

**For the Year ended December 31st,**

**1955**

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D. W. Jones, Printer, Port Talbot. 45753



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# **Annual Report**

OF THE

## **Medical Officer of Health**

**For the Year ended December 31st,**

**1955**



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## **STAFF.**

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### **Medical Officer of Health.**

D. H. J. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (also Medical Officer of Health, Glyncorrwg Urban District Council and Divisional Medical Officer, Glamorgan County Council).

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector.**

G. A. MORGAN (C.R.S.I. as Sanitary Inspector ; C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector ; C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector ; C.R.S.I. School Hygiene and Physiology ; Diploma, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene ; Certificate, School Hygiene, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene ; Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales). Fellow Royal Sanitary Institute. Fellow Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

### **Additional Sanitary Inspectors.**

L. J. CARTER (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

S. TAYLOR (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector, Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales ; C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector). (January to May).

I. G. HEYCOCK (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector.)

T. T. REES (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

L. MORGAN (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector). (August to December).

J. D. MILES (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector). (August to December).

**Draintester and Disinfector.**      W. G. DAVIES.

**Rodent Operative.**                      E. DUMMER.

**Clerk.**                                      Miss DAPHNE BROWN.

**Clerk.**                                      Miss BETTY LEWIS.



**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR, 1955.**

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of  
Port Talbot.

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the  
Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1955.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with the  
direction of the Minister of Health as contained in Circular 17/55  
(Wales) from the Welsh Board of Health.

For nine years the Report has been cyclostyled. This  
year the printed form has received your approval and this has  
been welcomed by your officers inasmuch as it has become possible  
to incorporate once again under the same cover the reports,  
statistics and comments of your Chief Sanitary Inspector together  
with those of the Medical Officer of Health.

In order that reference to any particular section might  
be facilitated an index of the contents of the report has been  
introduced immediately following the frontpiece.

Comments on the various statistical details will be found  
appended to those particulars.

Before concluding these introductory remarks I would  
like to express my appreciation of the wholehearted support  
of the members of the Council and my thanks to my colleagues  
in all departments for their unfailing co-operation during the  
period under review.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. J. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer of Health.

## SUMMARY OF GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1955.

Area of Borough (inclusive of foreshore) .....	25,648 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimated mid-year, 1955) .....	46,680
Rateable value at 31st March, 1955 .....	£325,767
Product of Penny Rate for year ended 31st March, 1955 .....	£1,251/16/4.97d.
Rainfall in inches at Town Centre .....	40.18
Number of inhabited houses .....	13,223
Number of Houses erected in 1955 .....	483
(i) By Local Authority .....	420
(ii) By other bodies or persons .....	63
Number of houses connected to Corporation Mains Water Supply .....	14,513
Number of houses supplied from standpipes .....	45
Average daily consumption of water per person in gallons .....	29

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

### Live Births.

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .....	435	419	854
Illegitimate .....	14	9	23
Total number of live births .....	449	428	877
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (corrected) .....			18.79
Live birth rate for England and Wales .....			15. 0

### Still Births.

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .....	7	12	19
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Total number of stillbirths .....	7	12	19

The following table is of interest :—

Number of live births at home in the borough .....	368
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Neath General Hospital .....	408
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Bridgend General Hospital .....	101

Of all live births 58% occurred in hospital. In 1954 the percentage births in hospital was 66 and in 1953, 64.

Owing to staffing difficulties and other problems the hospitals were unable to meet all the applications for hospital confinement otherwise the 1955 percentage would approximate to that of the previous year.

Deaths.

Deaths from all causes in the area (Male 293 Female 218) .....	511
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (corrected) .....	10.95
Death rate for England and Wales .....	11.7

The death rate for the past nine years is summarised below :—

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
9.97	11.09	9.57	12.39	11.7	11.3	10.5	12.5	11.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There were two deaths from puerperal causes during 1955 and the certified causes are listed below :—

- 1. General peritonitis spreading from an abscess in the pelvis and intestinal obstruction following perforation of fundus of uterus by syringe. Post Mortem. Conviction of manslaughter.
- 2. 1a. Uraemia. b. Cortical necrosis of kidneys. c. Eclampsia.  
2. Multiple small cerebral haemorrhages.

It is unfortunate that this patient in spite of exhortations by the Health Visitor, Midwife and family doctor failed to avail herself of any form of ante natal care during her pregnancy.

Infant Mortality.

Neonatal Deaths—23. Neonatal Death rate per 1,000 Live births—26.23.

Cause of Death	First 24 hours of life	One day— One month
Prematurity .....	7	6
Cerebral haemorrhage .....	—	3
Intracranial haemorrhage .....	—	2
Terminal pneumonia—cerebral thrombosis .....	—	1
Erythroblastosis foetalis—rhesus incompatibility .....	1	—
Coma—cerebral haemorrhage—hydrocephalus .....	1	—
Coma—anencephaly .....	1	—
Shock and cerebral contusion due to fracture of skull, open verdict. Inquest (Dead body of unknown newly born child found in churchyard) .....	1	—
	11	12



### Deaths during one month to one year of age :—7

Bronchopneumonia .....	3
Asphyxia due to aspiration of stomach contents—misadventure .....	1
Meningococcal meningitis .....	1
Paralytic Ileus : Primary peritonitis .....	1
Septicaemia : tracheo bronchitis .....	1
Total .....	7

From the above it will be seen that 30 infants failed to reach their first birthday. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 34.21 per 1,000 live births. That for the whole of England and Wales during the same period was 24.9

For comparison purposes I append below the Infant Mortality rate for the Borough for the last ten years :—

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
34.21	22.78	19.4	29.06	30.6	33.8	54.8	35	40	43

Whilst a proportion of the deaths may be classed as unavoidable, certain of them cannot be so classified and no effort must be spared to correct this.

It will also be seen that a high proportion of the infant deaths occurred during the first month of life and that prematurity was the predominant factor in the majority of cases.

### Deaths (all Ages).

The main causes of death in the Borough during 1955 were :—

1. Cardiovascular conditions .....	176
2. Cancers of various kinds .....	97
3. Vascular lesions of the nervous system .....	84
4. Respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis and Cancer) .....	43
5. Tuberculosis .....	9
6. Accidents .....	20

There were 19 deaths due to cancer of the lung, 18 amongst males and 1 amongst females.

This compares with :—

9 deaths (8 males, 1 female) in 1954.

Of the one hundred and seventy-six deaths from cardiovascular conditions, seventy-four were attributed to coronary disease. Fifty-four men and twenty women died of coronary disease, this giving a proportion of a little under three to one male against female deaths in this class. In the previous year there were forty seven deaths from coronary disease, thirty-five being males and twelve being females.

**CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS DURING 1955**  
**As recorded by the Registrar General**

	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
1—Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	5	3
2—Tuberculosis, other .....	1	—
3—Syphilitic disease .....	—	—
4—Diphtheria .....	—	—
5—Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6—Meningococcal infections .....	1	—
7—Acute poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8—Measles .....	—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	—	2
10—Cancer of stomach .....	13	10
11—Cancer of lung .....	18	1
12—Cancer of breast .....	—	10
13—Cancer of uterus .....	—	1
14—Other forms of cancer .....	19	24
15—Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	1	—
16—Diabetes .....	2	4
17—Vascular lesions of nervous systems .....	48	36
18—Coronary disease, angina .....	54	20
19—Hypertension with heart disease .....	2	1
20—Other heart disease .....	32	41
21—Other circulatory disease .....	9	17
22—Influenza .....	—	—
23—Pneumonia .....	8	3
24—Bronchitis .....	21	5
25—Other diseases of respiratory system .....	5	1
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	3	2
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	—	2
28—Nephritis and nephrosis .....	3	—
29—Hyperplasia of prostate .....	5	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	2
31—Congenital malformations .....	1	3
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	20	23
33—Motor vehicle accidents .....	5	—
34—All other accidents .....	9	6
35—Suicide .....	8	1
36—Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease during 1955 as compared with 1953 and 1954.

Disease	1953	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever	82	31	25
Whooping Cough	126	204	63
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	624	11	1132
Meningococcal Infection	1	2	4
Dysentery	2	1	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	4
Smallpox	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B	1	19	2
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	6	4
Malaria	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	11	3
Undulant Fever	—	—	—
Encephalitis (infectious)	—	—	—

### Distribution by Wards.

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Polio	Pul. T.B.	Non-Pul. T.B.
Margam West	3	5	76	—	2	—
Margam Central	3	9	116	1	5	2
Margam North	—	—	50	—	2	—
Aberavon South	12	46	611	—	17	4
Aberavon North	7	2	84	1	7	1
Cwmavon	—	1	195	—	4	—

### Measles.

After a very quiet year in 1954 when only eleven cases of measles were notified, 1955 saw the most widespread epidemic recorded. Fortunately the disease occurred in a relatively mild form and the sequelae and complications were few.

As is usual where a potential reservoir of susceptible children may be found the disease took firm hold. Aberavon South ward with its vast new housing estate suffered 611 notifications.

The high proportion of young children in the population on the Sandfields Estate made this a not unexpected area for high incidence. Indeed this area showed the highest notification rate for all common infectious illnesses in the borough.

### **Whooping Cough.**

The year 1955 saw a reduction in the incidence of whooping cough in the borough. Whilst it is thought that the immunisation with combined whooping cough/diphtheria prophylactic may have some bearing on this reduction it is too early yet to derive any conclusive inference from this reduction.

### **Dysentery.**

Three cases of dysentery were notified during the year.

### **Food Poisoning.**

Three cases of food poisoning were notified. In an area such as Port Talbot where so many meals are partaken out of the home eternal vigilance must be sustained in all food shops, canteens and restaurants to ensure that infection of the intestinal tract from food is avoided.

### **Paratyphoid B.**

Following the 1954 epidemic when nineteen cases of Paratyphoid B came to light, 1955 saw two cases notified. These were carefully investigated and all indications pointed to infection by a carrier, a child who had suffered in the previous outbreak. The family of the carrier co-operated with the family doctor and the department in trying to clear the child of its infection but in spite of long courses of modern medication the child continued to excrete paratyphoid B. The child continues under the surveillance of the department.

### **Poliomyelitis.**

Two cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year. One was of a mild nature and recovery was uneventful. The other however, a baby of seven months, sustained severe paralysis of both legs and recovery was limited. At the time of preparation of this report the child is still in hospital undergoing control and remedial therapy.

### **Disinfection.**

A high proportion of cases of infectious illness are admitted to hospital for isolation and treatment. This is applicable in particular to Scarlet Fever, Meningococcal Infection, Dysentery, Puerperal Pyrexia, Paratyphoid B., Erysipelas, Poliomyelitis and, when the symptom and signs are of a severe nature, Food Poisoning.

Arrangements are made during the initial domiciliary investigation for disinfection of the room, bedding and necessary articles of the patient. The bedding etc. is transported by the department's disinfection transport to and from the Groeswen Hospital where, by arrangement with the hospital authority, steam disinfection is carried out.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases during 1955 :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ....	—	—	—	—
Over 1 year and under 5 years ....	—	1	—	—
Over 5 years and under 10 years ....	—	—	—	1
Over 10 years and under 15 years ....	1	—	1	—
Over 15 years and under 20 years ....	3	5	—	—
Over 20 years and under 25 years ....	2	2	3	—
Over 25 years and under 35 years ....	2	3	—	—
Over 35 years and under 45 years ....	2	4	—	1
Over 45 years and under 55 years ....	3	1	—	—
Over 55 years and under 65 years ....	2	2	—	—
Over 65 years ....	3	1	1	—
Totals ....	18	19	5	2

A feature of significance in the details given above is the swing to the older age groups of the notification of pulmonary tuberculosis, four cases coming to light in the over 65 age group.

In a war the strength and disposition of the enemy must be known in order that the plan of attack can be prepared, appropriate deployment of troops and weapons organised and the blow struck where it will be most effective.

Tuberculosis must be attacked along all fronts to an organised plan and for this to be effective the disposition or incidence of the disease in the community must be known.

In the past much disease occurred amongst the younger element and the older groups did not come forward for examination. Thus undiagnosed reservoirs of infection were free to roam at will in the community unaware of their true condition and infectivity. With modern advances in treatment the sputum positive cases can be reduced thus reducing the risk of spread of infection.

A reduction in the numbers of cases of active disease will increase the availability of sanatorium beds (*a*) for early cases whose recovery is thus encouraged and (*b*) for the isolation of the more intractible chronic sputum positive cases. The removal of these from the community will further assist in reducing infection—a progressive and positive policy.

The introduction of B.C.G. Vaccination for suitable children in the school leaving age group will give an induced protection against infection to a tender group whose strength is sapped by puberty, and the change of environment from school to business, industry or to courses of further education. By tiding this group over this difficult period it is hoped that infection can be thwarted until its physical resources and stamina can better cope successfully with the tubercle bacillus.



Below I append the notification state at the beginning and end of 1955 for comparison purposes :—

**Number of cases on Register on 1st January, 1955—466**

	Males	Females
Pulmonary .....	191	190
Non-Pulmonary .....	40	45
Total .....	231	235

**Number of cases on Register on 31st December, 1955—498**

	Males	Females
Pulmonary .....	199	210
Non-Pulmonary .....	45	44
Total .....	244	254
Number left district .....		13
Number Died .....		8
Number Recovered .....		8
Total .....		29
Number of New notifications .....		42
Number of In-Transfers .....		19
Number Restored to Register .....		—
Total .....		61

From the above it would appear at first glance that the incidence of tuberculosis is on the increase. It is felt that this is an artificial increase as the number of cases removed from the register is small. In the past death intervened in all but a few cases, wiping off large numbers of cases.

Today, however, the number of deaths is reduced and this, coupled with caution in declaring cases as recovered, influences the total. In truth an increasing proportion of cases on the Tuberculosis Register are back at work in their previous employment, or, after rehabilitation in new employment more suited to their needs than their former, their condition and progress being the subject of regular periodic surveillance by the Chest Physician.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

### Hospitals.

The Borough falls within the area of the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee. This Committee administers thirteen hospitals, two of which are located in Port Talbot.

One is a general hospital catering mainly for medical and surgical cases. There are also provisions made for the in-patient treatment of a limited number of children. In February a much needed new out-patients department and Chest Clinic were opened in the grounds of the General Hospital. Here appointments are arranged on a staggered basis and the waiting time for consultation is thereby reduced to a minimum. Canteen facilities, manned by voluntary workers add to the amenities available in this new department.

The Isolation Hospital consisting of three blocks continues to function for the segregation of infectious diseases. At present however two blocks only are given over to infectious illness, the third block, separated from the other two, being utilised as a convalescent annexe to the general hospital.

As the bed situation in the two Port Talbot hospitals are not adequate to meet all the needs of the population, patients can be and are admitted to neighbouring hospitals within the Management Committee area and where the needs arise to hospitals outside the area.

There are no maternity beds for hospital confinement in Port Talbot. These are however available at Neath and Bridgend and allocation of non-emergency beds at these hospitals is made by your Medical Officer in his capacity of Divisional Medical Officer for the Glamorgan County Council.

### **General Practitioner Service.**

With but three exceptions the borough is served by General Medical Practitioners in partnership with one or more colleagues. Twenty-two general practitioners reside within the borough and all give service to the majority of their patients within the framework of the National Health Service.

### **Domiciliary Midwifery Service.**

The Glamorgan County Council provides the Domiciliary Midwifery service in the borough and the day to day administration is carried out at the Divisional Health Office, Park House, Theodore Road, Port Talbot. Eight County Midwives are employed and each is responsible for a predetermined district. Gas and air analgesia is available to all suitable cases. Apparatus for the administration of Trilene analgesia has been introduced and is proving satisfactory particularly in the terminal stages of labour.

### **Domiciliary Nursing Service.**

This service is also provided by the Glamorgan County Council and is administered locally at the Divisional Health Office.

Medical comforts in the form of bed rests, sputum mugs, rubber sheets, bed pans, urinals, rubber air rings, wheel chairs, etc., are held at the Divisional Health Office and are available for issue on certification in any case of need. There is no hiring charge for this type of equipment.

### **Home Help Service.**

A team of part-time and casual Home Helps are employed by the Glamorgan County Council to provide domiciliary help in homes where there is need. The service is mainly utilised by the chronic sick, the aged and infirm, the blind, the tuberculous and in homes where confinements have taken place. There is a charge for this service and assessment is made on the income in accordance with County Council regulations.

### **Ambulance Service.**

This is operated by the Glamorgan County Council the Control Centre for the area being situated at Neath (Telephone number—Neath 871). A 2/3 car sub station is attached to the Divisional Health Office in Port Talbot but all transport is booked from the Control Centre. Plans to equip all ambulance cars with short wave radio receiver/transmitters to improve contact with Control are shortly to be put into effect.

### **Welfare Services.**

The Welfare services are administered by the Glamorgan County Council and the local office is situated at 8 Wind Street, Neath.

This department is responsible for the provision of Part III Hostel Accommodation, care of the homeless and care of property etc., of patients in hospital who have no relatives to undertake this responsibility, the visiting of and welfare of the blind and handicapped.

### **Clinic Services.**

Both Ante-natal and Infant Welfare clinic facilities are provided by the local health authority. The majority of these are centred in properly equipped clinic premises owned by the authority but certain clinic sessions are arranged in hired premises. Regular examinations, urine and blood, and blood pressure, vaccinations, immunisations, health education and advice together with the sale of welfare and other foods are carried out at these clinics.

### **Minor Gynaecological Clinic.**

Under the arrangements of the County Council a clinic is held once monthly for married women who require advice on birth control on medical grounds. This clinic is administered at the Divisional Health Office and appointments are arranged on the representation of medical practitioners.

### **Mental Health Service.**

The Officer duly authorised to take initial proceedings under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts for the provision of care and treatment of persons in the area suffering from mental illness is Mr. Ivor Evans, 99 Lone Road, Clydach (Telephone number Clydach 2170).

## **Mental Defectives.**

The Glamorgan County Council is responsible for the ascertainment, supervision and general welfare of mental defectives and an occupation Centre has been provided in Baglan.

Defectives in need of residential or institution care are referred to the Regional Hospital Board, the County Medical Officer being responsible for acquainting the Board of the degree of urgency of admission.

## **National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.**

The local Inspector's address is 10 Gnoll Crescent, Neath (Telephone number Neath 695).

## **HOUSING.**

In order as far as possible to avoid duplication, details of the inspection etc. of dwelling houses are incorporated in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's section of this report.

During 1955, of 483 houses completed, 420 were built by the Local Authority, and 63 by other bodies or persons.

Of the houses built and let by the Corporation the table below gives an indication of some of the special categories dealt with.

Families suffering from or exposed to Tuberculosis .....	20
Families from condemned houses .....	15
Families from squatters camps .....	3
Families from overcrowded houses .....	17
Key workers .....	101

The remainder of the houses were allocated within the framework of the Council's points scheme.

Tuberculosis alone is recognised for illness points, and in order for these to be applicable the case must be notified and entered on the Tuberculosis Register. It is now agreed that removal of a young family from a home where there is a case of pulmonary tuberculosis amongst the householder's family is as desirable as the rehousing of a family one of whose members is the sufferer. By the removal of the young family from the source of infection, council is thus able to contribute towards the reduction in risk of secondary spread amongst the contacts.

## **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.**

Two forms of overcrowding are possible. Statutory over-crowding where more than the permitted numbers occupy a dwelling and overcrowding caused by the uneven distribution of occupants within a dwelling. No cases of the former were drawn to the attention of the department during the period under review.



The latter constitutes a difficult problem and seventeen such cases were rehoused by the Authority during 1955. A young couple are admitted into apartments either with parents, relations or strangers. Their accommodation does not increase with natural family increases and though the rest of the dwelling may be occupied by as few as one person their apartment becomes overcrowded, rehousing being the only solution.

Number of applicants for Council Houses on the waiting list :—

December 31st, 1955	.....	.....	.....	1699
December 31st, 1954	.....	.....	.....	1540
December 31st, 1953	.....	.....	.....	1650
December 31st, 1952	.....	.....	.....	1340
December 31st, 1951	.....	.....	.....	1732
December 31st, 1950	.....	.....	.....	1940

### **Water Supplies.**

This subject was considered in detail in the Annual Report for 1954. During the year much consideration was given by Council to the augmentation of existing supplies. The importance of this consideration was underlined towards the end of the summer when after a period of drought associated with fine sunny weather, the authority's reserves were reduced to dangerous levels and the domestic supplies had to be discontinued for certain periods during the day.

At the end of 1955, 14,513 houses were being supplied direct from the public mains, 45 houses only continuing to draw their water from standpipes.

During the year an increase of 0.2 gallons from 28.8 to 29 gallons in the average daily consumption per head was noted.

Bacteriological investigations were carried out on 263 samples. Forty-two were found to be unsatisfactory 17 being from untreated water. The attention of the Borough Engineer was drawn to these on receipt and further samples were found to be satisfactory.

### **Disposal of Refuse.**

The disposal of household and other refuse is undertaken by the Borough Engineer's Department and varies from daily collection in certain main streets to weekly collections in the residential areas.

Disposal is by means of tipping on controlled tipping sites, the refuse being covered by slag, shale and earth conveyed to the sites as required.

This form of disposal presents problems if the coverage is not adequately maintained as tipping progresses. No efforts are spared to ensure this.



The tip at Baglan was nearing completion at the end of 1955. Acres of ground to be utilised as playing fields have already been reclaimed from low lying marshy ground and when the scheme has been completed, what was useless and unsightly ground will become a recreation ground that will bring joy and pleasure to the inhabitants of the area.

The recommendations that notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 on the owners or occupiers of buildings within the District requiring them to provide such numbers of covered dustbins for the reception of house refuse was implemented during the year.

### **Sewage Disposal.**

The proximity of the sea and the river estuary have served to provide a simple solution to this problem. Certain main sewers discharge direct into the tidal estuary. The joint outfall sewer has been under reconstruction and discharges into the sea at a distance from the shore. This sewer serves the Glyncoirwg Urban District and the Steel Company of Wales in addition to certain parts of the borough.

## GENERAL INFORMATION.

### Education.

The following information has been provided by Mr. R. J. Williams, the Divisional Executive Officer :—

1. Total average number of pupils attending primary and secondary schools in the Borough during 1955	8058
2. Total average number of pupils receiving school meals during 1955	1721
3. Total average number of pupils receiving milk in school during 1955	6009

### Children's Department.

Miss Beti Jones, the Glamorgan County Council Children's Officer has kindly supplied the following details :—

1. Number of children admitted to Children's Homes in 1955	16
2. Number of children admitted to Approved Schools in 1955	Nil

### Juvenile Court.

Mr. P. H. R. Thomas, the Clerk to the Court, states that 135 children between the ages of eight and seventeen years were brought before the Juvenile Court during 1955.

### Welfare Services. Part III Accommodation.

Eleven persons from Port Talbot were admitted to County Council Hostels during 1955.

### Employment of Disabled Persons.

Of 713 men and 45 women on the Disabled Persons Register (at the end of the year) only 19 men and 3 women were wholly unemployed, 49 men and 7 women having been placed in suitable employment during the period.

I append below details of the unemployment figures for Port Talbot for the past eight years :—

	Men	Women
December, 1948	188	276
December, 1949	168	162
December, 1950	77	151
December, 1951	61	50
December, 1952	76	61
December, 1953	80	30
December, 1954	77	39
December, 1955	60	41

### Industrial Medical Services.

Mr. D. J. Young, Secretary and Comptroller of the Steel Company of Wales has kindly supplied the following facts for incorporation in the report. Health in Industry must be regarded as closely linked with the Public Health. The maintenance of good health in the workers is reflected in the homes and families. By the provision of treatment centres for its workers, industry is able to save the loss of manpower hours with its concomitant loss of earnings.

- “ 1. Strength of Labour Employed on 31st  
December, 1955 ..... 11232
2. Registered Disabled Persons ..... 3.3%
3. Extent and Development of Medical Services.

### **Medical Department**

#### **Staff**

One Resident Doctor—whole time.  
Four Local Practitioners—part time.  
Eight State Registered male nurses.  
Six State Registered female nurses.  
Twenty Medical attendants (male and female).  
Four Ambulance Drivers.  
One Chartered Physiotherapist and One Assistant—whole time.

**Staff Policy :** As and when vacancies occur in the Medical Department male State Registered nurses have been recruited in place of the old type of non State Registered medical attendants; this increases the scope of First Aid therapy but does not seem to deplete the all too short medical personnel from the local hospitals because the shortage there is for female State Registered nurses.

**Ambulance Rooms :** For the Works there are now six (five permanent and one temporary) manned whole time. One medical centre, head office block, manned days only ; 5½ days per week.

#### **Total treatments for 1955 :**

Steel Company of Wales.....

employees	.....	New cases	26,412	
		Re-dressings	16,076	= 42,488
Contractors	.....	New cases	12,059	
		Re-dressings	6,722	= 18,781
Grand Total				61,269

**Physiotherapy :** This new department has now completed a whole year's operation and is proving both much used and successful.

Total number of treatments given	.....	13,060
Total number of patients treated	.....	2,049

**Young Persons :** The Resident Doctor is also the appointed Factory Doctor for conducting statutory medical examinations for young persons, and during the year, 562 such examinations were conducted.

All new staff undergo a medical examination before joining the Company and were examined by the Company's medical service. During the year there were 3,069 such examinations.”

**BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT**

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# **Annual Report**

OF THE

## **Chief Sanitary Inspector**

**For the Year ended December 31st,**

# **1955**

## BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of  
the Borough of Port Talbot.

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For over 60 years the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for this area has been regularly submitted to Council for its consideration. This report for the year 1955 is the twenty-first of a series I have been privileged to present as your Chief Sanitary Inspector. Over the years these reports furnish a continuous record of the progress and development of the local environmental services and provide a valuable record of the work carried out by your Sanitary Department for more than half a century.

From this report of the work carried out during 1955 it will be observed that considerable attention has been given to the many conditions coming within the purview of the Sanitary Inspector and which affect the well-being of the inhabitants.

We continued to experience much difficulty in securing the repair of dwelling houses in the area. As a result of the extensive building operations in this Borough, tradesmen and building craftsmen are fully engaged and cannot divert labour to the many repair jobs. More of our time is taken up in an endeavour to secure on behalf of property owners suitable contractors who will undertake repair work. Again, as a result of the difficulty in obtaining building craftsmen much more time has to be allowed before we feel fully entitled to enforce compliance with our notices. The position is reflected in this report under the heading of "Prosecutions." Whilst we are reluctantly obliged to enforce our requirements by such a course of action—and the number of such cases are on the increase when compared with previous years—the Magistrates again appreciating the local shortage of building tradesmen, adjourn our cases or make orders over an extended period of time. The delay that often arises, therefore, between the service of an informal notice and the completion of the work can be fully appreciated. It is, however, gratifying to report that substantial house repair and reconditioning work was carried out during the year.



Our work during 1955 was perhaps not spectacular. Nevertheless, important duties were carried out diligently and conscientiously. Much of our time was given to housing conditions, atmospheric pollution and food supplies. A record number of samples of milk and other foods were obtained for analysis and in one case only was any food discovered to be below the required legal standard. This was a milk deficient in fat but still proved to be a genuine sample. There continues to be progressive improvement in the hygienic standard of food premises. Meat inspection at the Abattoir continued to be carried out in strict conformity with the requirements of Memo 3/Meat.

Mr. Sydney Taylor, District Sanitary Inspector, resigned his position in May 1955 to take up an appointment at Towyn. Mr. Taylor discharged his duties with credit and distinction and one could not but regret his leaving. Two new appointments were made during the year—one to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Taylor—and the other being an increase in establishment; Messrs. Lindsay Morgan and Duncan Miles being appointed.

It is with sincere regret that I have to record the death during the year of Mr. Edwin Dummer your Rodent Officer. We mourn the passing of a colleague who for many years was a faithful and conscientious member of the Staff.

The presentation of this report affords me an opportunity once again of thanking Council and its Public Health Committee for the help they have readily given throughout the year; of expressing my appreciation to the Chief Officers of Council Departments for their very cordial co-operation throughout the year on matters of mutual interest, and to the members of the staff of your Sanitary Department for their continued loyalty and good service.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. MORGAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Report of Mr. G. A. Morgan, Chief Sanitary Inspector  
and Inspector under the Factories and Housing Acts.

**GENERAL INSPECTION OF DISTRICT**

Housing inspections and re-inspections .....	4601
Structural defects .....	2979
Drains, yards, urinals and W.C's .....	2513
Common Lodging Houses .....	56
Amusement houses, cinemas, etc. ....	47
Verminous premises .....	406
Dirty conditions .....	303
Accumulations .....	149
Ashpits, privies and cesspools .....	22
Tents, vans and sheds .....	27
Dairies and milk shops .....	70
Food premises, kitchens and vehicles .....	2214
Houses let in lodgings, tenements, etc. ....	119
Offensive trades .....	44
Fish friers .....	34
Ice cream premises and vehicles .....	149
Bakehouses .....	75
Factories .....	286
Schools .....	22
Pigstyes and swine keeping .....	104
Stables, refuse and manure .....	122
Rats and mice .....	2317
Atmospheric pollution .....	228
Animals improperly kept .....	155
Meat and Food inspection .....	1688
Slaughterhouse .....	294
Water supplies .....	181
Water sampling .....	263
Food and Drugs Sampling .....	319
Milk sampling .....	91
Other nuisances .....	331
Interviews .....	933
Infectious Disease Enquiries .....	134
Police Court Attendances .....	26
Shops, offices, etc. ....	729
Overcrowded dwellings .....	34
Public conveniences .....	39
Public houses .....	91
Grand Total .....	22195

## Housing Inspections :

Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	984
Number of visits of inspection in respect of same	3601
Number of houses found unfit for human habitation	475
Number of houses found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation	477
Number of houses rendered fit after service of Notices	482

Some of the houses found not in all respects fit for habitation in the latter part of 1955 would not be rendered fit until some time in 1956, whereas some of the houses rendered fit in 1955 followed notices served in the latter part of 1954.

The number of nuisances discovered, together with the number of Notices served during the year were as follows :—

Nature of Inspection	Nuisances discovered	Informal Notices served	Abatement Notices served
Structural defects	262	262	104
Drains, yards, W.C.'s	215	215	37
Dirty conditions	12	12	3
Pigstyes and swine keeping	13	13	—
Water supplies	7	7	—
Accumulations	24	24	2
Food premises	15	15	—
Rats and mice	277	8	8
Verminous infestations	15	15	3
Factories	19	19	—
Tenements	4	4	1
Dairies	3	3	—
Stables, refuse and manure	8	8	—
Animals improperly kept	11	11	—
Shops and offices	3	3	—
Hotels	1	1	—
	889	620	158

The work carried out to abate the various nuisances discovered was as follows :—

### NATURE OF WORK DONE.

**Houses :** Walls repaired—60; Outside plastering repaired—57; Inside plastering repaired—149; Floors renewed or repaired—36; Floors ventilated—22; Roofs renewed or repaired—134; Shoots, downpipes or gutters repaired or renewed—110; Chimneys repaired—15; Ceilings repaired—59; Doors and frames repaired—31; Lighting and ventilations of rooms improved—4; window sashes or frames, renewed or repaired—67; Window cords renewed—41; Staircases repaired—1; Grates or ovens repaired or renewed—20; Boilers provided or repaired—4; Out-buildings repaired—14; Walls or ceilings cleansed and redecorated—19; Bedding cleansed or destroyed—10; Rooms treated for vermin—75; Over-crowding abated—2; Yard paving relaid or repaired—17; Nuisances from animals abated—12; Accumulations removed—15; Water supply provided—13; Water taps or pipes renewed—7; Miscellaneous repairs and nuisances—16; Washup sinks provided—11; Skirting boards repaired or renewed—22.

**Drainage :** Drains tested—smoke and chemical—28 ; Drains relaid—11 ; Drains repaired—50 ; Drains cleansed 50 ; Inspection or intercepting chambers provided or repaired—9 ; Intercepting traps fixed—2 ; Soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed or repaired—3 ; Gullies fixed—11 ; Sinks trapped or waste pipes repaired—1 ; Wash hand basins trapped or waste pipes repaired—1.

**W.C.'s :** Additional W.C.'s provided—12 ; W.C.'s reconstructed—6 ; Lighting and ventilation improved—1 ; New pans and traps fixed—23 ; W.C.'s cleansed—8 ; Flushing apparatus provided—19 ; Flushing apparatus repaired—14 ; Miscellaneous repairs—7 ; Seats provided or repaired—15.

**Cesspools :** Abolished and house connected to sewer—1 ; Emptied—3.

**Common Lodging Houses :** Limewashing or cleansing carried out—2 ; W.C.'s repaired—1 ; Other repairs—1.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs :** Number of houses infested with bed bugs—15 ; Number of houses disinfested by (a) occupier—10 ; (b) Local Authority—5.

**Earth or Pail Closets :** Abolished—2.

**Tents, Vans, Sheds :** Removed—4.

**Miscellaneous :** Smoke nuisances abated—2 ; Animal and Poultry nuisances abated—8 ; Cockroach infestation abated—8.

**Rats and Mice :** Infestations removed—277 ; Rat and mice proofing carried out—6 ; Local authority premises—13 ; Dwelling houses—214 ; Business premises—41 ; Agricultural premises—9.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 AND FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

**Food Shops, Kitchens, etc. :** Accumulations removed—3 ; Cleanliness improved—13 ; Storage arrangements improved—10 ; Lighting or ventilation improved—7 ; Washup sinks fixed—4 ; Water supply provided—4 ; Impervious floors or yards laid—7 ; Walls repaired—6 ; Drains cleansed—1 ; New gully trap fixed—1 ; W.C. accommodation provided or improved—2 ; Washing facilities provided or improved—3 ; New range fixed in Fried Fish Shop—1 ; Refuse or garbage bin provided—1.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

An important part of the duties of your Sanitary Inspectors is the inspection of meat at the Public Abattoir. Here the Inspector is on duty before slaughtering commences and does not leave the premises until slaughtering has discontinued. The methods and criteria of meat inspection recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are strictly complied with. The quantity of diseased and unsound meat condemned at the Abattoir during the year was as follows :—

### BULLS, BULLOCKS AND HEIFERS.

#### Tuberculosis Only.

Carcases and all organs	9	Forequarters	7
Hindquarters	2	Part Forequarters	1
Part Hindquarters	3	Heads and Tongues	79
Lungs	130	Livers	37
Skirts	6	Spleens	3
Mesenteries	63	Intestines	60
Kidneys	2	Neck	1

#### Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

2 Carcases and all organs	—	1 Pathological Emaciation ;
1 Part Carcase	—	1 Septic Pneumonia.
		Bruising.

45 Heads and Tongues	—	33 Actinomycosis ; 9 C. Bovis ; 1 Abscess ; 1 Fibrosis ; 1 Bruising.
2 Part Hindquarters	—	1 Fracture ; 1 Bruising.
3 Tongues	—	2 Fibrosis ; 1 Glossitis.
2 Part Forequarters	—	1 Fracture ; 1 Fibrosis.
538 Lungs	—	344 Pleurisy ; 20 Pneumonia ; 5 Emphysema ; 49 Hydatid Cysts ; 110 Congestion ; 2 Abscesses ; 1 Melanosis ; 7 Parasitic.
87 Hearts	—	75 Pericarditis ; 11 C. Bovis ; 1 Degenerated.
665 Livers	—	453 Distomatosis ; 86 Cirrhosis ; 30 Angiomata ; 12 Degenerated ; 7 Bacterial Necrosis ; 38 Abscesses ; 21 Peritonitis ; 3 Carcinomata ; 4 Parasitic ; 5 Hydatid Cysts ; 6 Hepatitis.
661 Part Livers	—	313 Cirrhosis ; 348 Distomatosis.
65 Spleens	—	62 Peritonitis ; 1 Hydatid Cysts ; 1 Cyst ; 1 Abscess.
16 Kidneys	—	11 Nephritis ; 2 Abscess ; 1 Hydatid Cysts ; 2 Cysts.
23 Skirts	—	10 Pleurisy ; 4 Oedema ; 1 Abscess ; 7 Pleurisy/Peritonitis ; 1 C. Bovis.
27 Omentums and Stomachs	—	13 Peritonitis ; 12 C. Bovis ; 2 Abscesses.
4 Stomachs	—	4 C. Bovis.
41 Mesenterics and Intestines	—	24 Peritonitis ; 12 C. Bovis ; 1 Pimply Gut ; 3 Abscesses ; 1 Oedema.
4 Stomachs and Intestines	—	C. Bovis.
4 Intestines	—	C. Bovis.
8 Suets	—	4 Fat Necrosis ; 1 Abscess ; 3 Necrosis.

#### COWS.

##### Tuberculosis Only.

Carcases and all organs	3	Spleen	1
Heads and Tongues	6	Skirts	1
Lungs	14	Mesenteries	9
Livers	3	Intestines	9
Hearts	2		

##### Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

18 Carcases and all organs	—	4 Emaciation—Pathological ; 7 Johnnes Disease ; 5 General Dropsy ; 2 Severe Bruising.
3 Part Hindquarters	—	Bruising.
1 Hindquarter	—	Bruising.
1 Forequarter	—	Bruising.
5 Heads and Tongues	—	1 Abscess ; 4 Actinomycosis.
80 Lungs	—	28 Pleurisy ; 20 Hydatid Cysts ; 4 Abscesses ; 4 Parasitic ; 23 Congestion ; 1 Emphysema.
6 Hearts	—	3 Pericarditis ; 3 C. Bovis.
139 Livers	—	81 Distomatosis ; 20 Cirrhosis ; 15 Angiomata ; 6 Degeneration ; 1 Parasitic ; 7 Hydatid Cysts ; 7 Abscesses ; 2 Peritonitis.
35 Part Livers	—	15 Cirrhosis ; 30 Distomatosis.
4 Skirts	—	1 Pleurisy ; 3 Oedema.
18 Spleens	—	16 Peritonitis ; 2 Degenerated.
2 Omentums and Stomachs	—	Peritonitis.



9 Kidneys	—	2 Degeneration ; 6 Nephritis ; 1 Hydro-Nephritis.
2 Stomachs and Intestines	—	C. Bovis.
2 Stomachs	—	C. Bovis.
3 Intestines	—	2. C. Bovis ; 1 Johnnes Disease.
36 Mesenteries and Intestines	—	9 Peritonitis ; 25 Johnnes Disease ; 2 Oedema.
11 Udders	—	6 Mammitis ; 5 Induration.

### CALVES.

#### Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

31 Carcases and all organs	—	22 Immaturity ; 1 Septic Pleurisy ; 1 Pyaemia ; 1 General Dropsy ; 1 Jaundice ; 2 Joint-Ill ; 1 Severe Bruising ; 1 Uraemia and Dropsy ; 2 Pathological-Emaciation ; 3 Oedema.
2 Hindquarters	—	Bruising.
23 Lungs	—	6 Pneumonia ; 17 Congested.
27 Livers	—	14 Degenerated ; 2 Abscesses ; 5 Necrosis ; 4 Cysts ; 2 Hepatitis.
35 Kidneys	—	8 Billiary Nephritis ; 23 Nephritis ; 1 Bruising ; 4 Degneration.

### SHEEP.

#### Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

98 Carcases and all organs	—	25 Emaciation ; 2 Acute Fever ; 27 Dropsy ; 8 Moribund ; 7 Septic Pneumonia ; 16 Pathological Emaci- ation ; 9 Severe Bruising ; 3 Pyaemia ; 1 Immaturity.
8 Legs	—	2 Abscesses ; 1 Fibrosis ; 3 Arthritis ; 2 Bruising.
1 Shoulder	—	Bruising.
3 Part Shoulders	—	1 Melanosis ; 2 Abscesses.
2 Heads and Tongues	—	1 Bruising ; 1 Abscess.
3 Loins	—	Bruising.
3 Breasts/Shoulders	—	2 Pleurisy ; 1 Melanosis.
4489 Lungs	—	2397 Strongyli ; 231 Pleurisy ; 323 Pneumonia ; 226 Hydatid Cysts ; 1205 Congestion ; 93 Parasitic ; 7 Melanosis ; 7 Abscess.
105 Hearts	—	59 Pericarditis ; 41 Cysts ; 5 Haemorrhagic.
5207 Livers	—	1468 Parasitic ; 3023 Distomatosis ; 141 Cirrhosis ; 101 Degenerated ; 39 Peritonitis ; 394 Hydatid Cysts ; 15 Abscesses ; 5 Melanosis ; 13 Necrosis ; 7 Hepatitis.
40 Kidneys	—	18 Nephritis ; 8 Hepatitis ; 11 Necrosis ; 1 Abscess ; 2 Degeneration.
14 Kidney Capsules	—	Fat Necrosis.
1 Suet	—	Necrosis.
1 Mesentry and Intestine	—	Peritonitis.

#### Tuberculosis Only.

Carcases and all organs	4
Heads	104
Omentums	156
Lungs	5
Heads and Tongues	38

### PIGS.

Stomachs	156
Mesenteries	156
Intestines	156
Shoulder	1
Livers	5

## Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

13 Carcases and all organs	—	2 Pyaemia ; 2 Urticaria ; 1 Pathological-Emaciation ; 3 Acute Fever ; 1 Septic-Pleurisy ; 1 Moribund ; 1 General Dropsy ; 1 Jaundice ; 1 Septic Pneumonia.
5 Part Carcases	—	4 Bruising ; 1 Melanosis.
5 Legs	—	2 Arthritis ; 1 Abscess ; 2 Bruising. Abscess.
1 Forequarter	—	Bruising.
2 Part Hindquarters	—	529 Pneumonia ; 9 Parasitic ; 303 Pleurisy ; 94 Hydatid Cysts ; 1945 Congestion ; 2 Abscess.
2882 Lungs	—	17 Parasitic ; 43 Degeneration ; 124 Cirrhosis ; 127 Necrosis ; 47 Peritonitis ; 72 Hepatitis ; 100 Hydatid Cysts ; 3 Distomatosis.
533 Livers	—	142 Pericarditis ; 1 Degenerated.
143 Hearts	—	245 Nephritis ; 32 Hydro-Nephritis ; 10 Haemorrhagic ; 1 Degeneration.
297 Kidneys	—	7 Peritonitis ; 1 Tenuicolic.
8 Spleens	—	53 Peritonitis ; 14 Parasitic ; 74 Enteritis.
141 Mesenteries and Intestines	—	58 Peritonitis ; 1 Tenuicolic ; 1 Abscess ; 1 Hydatid Cysts.
61 Omentums and Stomachs	—	Peritonitis.
4 Omentums	—	1 Melanosis ; 1 Abscess.
2 Heads and Tongues	—	

## UN SOUND OR UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED OR SURRENDERED OUTSIDE THE ABATTOIR DURING THE YEAR WAS AS FOLLOWS :

### TINNED AND OTHER MEAT.

**Corned Beef :** 23 x 6-lb. tins ; 8 x 6-lb. 2-ozs. tins ; 14 x 12-ozs. tins ;  
1 x 5-lb. tin. **Beef Steak :** 3 x 16-ozs. tins ; 1 x 7½-ozs. tin. **Cooked Ham :**  
3 x 12-lb. tins ; 1 x 6-lb. 4-ozs. tins ; 2 x 12-lbs. 13-ozs. tins ; 1 x 14-lb.  
13-ozs. tin ; 1 x 13-lb. tin ; 4 x 6-ozs. tins ; 2 x 13-lb. 8-ozs. tins ; 3 x 10-lb.  
tins ; 2 x 7-lb. 9-ozs. tins ; 1 x 15-lb. tin ; 1 x 10-lb. 14-ozs. tin ; 1 x 15-lb.  
14-ozs. tin ; 1 x 15-lb. 8-ozs. tin ; 1 x 11-lb. 6-ozs. tin ; 1 x 9-lb. 9-oz. tin ;  
1 x 9-lb. 6-ozs. tin ; 2 x 16-lb. 8-ozs. tin ; 1 x 10-lb. 9-ozs. tin ; 1 x 11-lb.  
7-ozs tin ; 3 x 10-lb 7-ozs tins ; 1 x 13-lb. 3-ozs. tin ; 1 x 11-lb. 11-ozs. tin ;  
1 x 7-lb. 6½-ozs. tin ; 1 x 8-lb. 9-ozs. tin ; 1 x 13-lb. 13-ozs. tin ; 1 x 13-lb.  
15-ozs. tin ; 1 x 17-lb. 7-ozs. tin ; 2 x 15-lb. 2-ozs. tins ; 1 x 8-lb. 11-ozs. tin ;  
1 x 15-lb. 10-ozs. tin ; 1 x 12-lb. 4-ozs. tin. **Luncheon Meat :** 6 x 4-lb. tins ;  
2 x 7-ozs. tins ; 25 x 12-ozs. tins ; 2 x 5¼-lb. tins ; 3 x 11-ozs. tins ; 15 x 2-lb.  
tins. **Jellied Veal :** 12 x 6-lb. tins. **Tongue :** 6 x 6-lb. tins ; 1 x 6-ozs. tins ;  
2 x 16-ozs. tins ; 1 x 12-ozs. tins. **Minced Beef Loaf :** 14 x 12-ozs. tins ;  
1 x 16-ozs. tin ; 1 x 15-ozs. tin ; 1 x 6-ozs. tin. **Chopped Pork :** 12 x 12-ozs.  
tins ; 10 x 4-lb. tins. **Pork Sausages :** 69-lbs. **Beef Sausages :** 83-lbs.  
**Bacon :** 18-lbs. **Brisket Beef :** 2 x 4-lb. tins. **Stewed Steak :** 4 x 16-ozs. tins ;  
1 x 2-lb. tin ; 1 x 15½-ozs. tin. **Frozen Pork :** 100-lbs. **Roast Pork :** 13-lbs.  
1-ozs. **Beef :** 16-cwts. 3-qrs. 1-st. 8¼-lbs. **Pigs Plucks :** 25-lbs. **Faggots :**  
1 dozen. **Boiling Fowl :** 1 x 4-lb. **Chicken :** 1 x 4-lb. **Lamb :** 60-lbs.

### TINNED FRUIT.

**Tomatoes :** 66 x 2-lb. 3-ozs. tins ; 208 x 14-ozs. tins ; 104 x 8-ozs.  
tins ; 3 x 500-grm. tins ; 1 x 300-grm. tin ; 21 x 16-ozs. tins ; 13 x A1T size  
tins ; 3 x A3 size tins ; 21 x 35-ozs. tins ; 1 x 7-ozs. tin ; 5 x 15-ozs. tins ;  
1 x 7½-ozs. tin. **Pineapples :** 21 x 16-ozs. tins ; 2 x A2 size tins ; 21 x 12-ozs.  
tins ; 17 x 19-ozs. tins ; 5 x 30-ozs. tins ; 1 x 15-ozs. tin ;  
44 x 20-ozs. tins. **Grapefruit :** 1 x 11-ozs. tin ; 7 x 16-ozs. tins ;

5 x 20-ozs. tins; 3 x 7-ozs. tins. **Cherries** : 1 x 15½-ozs. tin; 5 x 31-ozs. tins; 8 x 16-ozs. tins; 3 x 7-ozs. tins. **Grapes** : 12 x 16-ozs. tins. **Gooseberries** : 3 x 19½-ozs. tins; 1 x 20-ozs. tin. **Peaches** : 28 x 16-ozs. tins; 22 x 29-ozs. tins; 11 x 15½-ozs. tins; 10 x 10-ozs. tins; 7 x 15-ozs. tins; 9 x 30-ozs. tins. **Apricots** : 1 x 14-ozs. tin; 72 x 16-ozs. tins; 14 x 19-ozs. tins; 2 x 15½-ozs. tins; 35 x 29-ozs. tins; 3 x 30-ozs. tins. **Fruit Salad** : 8 x 15½-ozs. tins; 4 x A1T size tins; 2 x 29-ozs. tins; 4 x 16-ozs. tins; 1 x 13-ozs. tin; 2 x 13½-ozs. tins; 3 x 20-ozs. tins. **Pears** : 3 x 10-ozs. tins; 10 x 15½-ozs. tins; 16 x 16-ozs. tins; 38 x 29-ozs. tins; 4 x 19-ozs. tins. **Oranges** : 5 x 12-ozs. tins; 1 x 8-ozs. tin; 45 x 11-ozs. tins. **Strawberries** : 2 x 10-ozs. tins; 1 x 13-ozs. tins; 3 x 13¾-ozs. tins; 4 x 16-ozs. tins; 9 x 15½-ozs. tins; 1 x 15-ozs. tin. **Loganberries** : 1 x 20-ozs. tin; 1 x 16-ozs. tin. **Red Currants** : 1 x 16-ozs. tin. **Blackcurrants** : 1 x 20-ozs. tin; 4 x 16-ozs. tins. **Figs** : 1 x 15-ozs. tin. **Raspberries** : 1 x 15-ozs. tin; 1 x 15½-ozs. tin; 3 x 31-ozs. tins; 1 x E1 size tin; 5 x 16-ozs. tins; 1 x 19-ozs. tin; 1 x 20-ozs. tin. **Prunes** : 1 x 11¼-ozs. tin; 2 x 15-ozs. tins; 1 x 30-ozs. tin. **Peach Pulp** : 1 x 7-lb. tin; **Apples** : 1 x 14½-ozs. tin. **Damsons** : 2 x 29-ozs. tins. **Bananas** : 2 x 21-ozs. tins. **Billberries** : 8 x 16-ozs. tins; 4 x 14-ozs. tins; 6 x 14½-ozs. tins; 2 x 10-ozs. tins; 1 x 20-ozs. tin. **Blackberries** : 2 x 15-ozs. tins; 11 x 15½-ozs. tins. **Plums** : 1 x 6-lb. 7-ozs. tin; 6 x 20-ozs. tins; 2 x 15½-ozs. tins.

### TINNED CREAM MILK.

**Milk—Evaporated** : 1 x 7-ozs. tin; 15 x 16-ozs. tins; 9 x 6-ozs. tins; 2 x 1½-pt. tins; 52 x 2-pt. tins; 4 x 1¾-pt. tins; 8 x 12-ozs. tins; 2 x 14½-ozs. tins. **Milk—Full Cream** : 16 x 1¾-pt. tins; 8 x 16-ozs. tins; 2 x 14-ozs. tins; 3 x 1½-pt. tins. **Cream** : 14 x 6-ozs. tins; 1 x 4-ozs. tin; 1 x 1½-pt. tin; 3 x 16-ozs. tins.

### TINNED VEGETABLES.

**Beetroot** : 1 x 16-ozs. tin; 2 x 6-lb. 5-ozs. tins. **Baked Beans** : 48 x 16-ozs. tins; 6 x 8-ozs. tins; 1 x 10-ozs. tin. **Peas** : 14 x 19-ozs. tins; 2 x 16-ozs. tins; 15 x 15½-ozs. tins; 3 x 13½-ozs. tins; 2 x 10½-ozs. tins; 7 x 10-ozs. tins; 4 x 20-ozs. tins; 3 x A1 size tin; 11 x 15-ozs. tins; 1 x 8-ozs. tin; 1 x 6-lb. 6-ozs. tin; 1 x 19½-ozs. tin. **Runner Beans** : 1 x 18-ozs. tin; 1 x 16-ozs. tin; **Broad Beans** : 1 x 19-ozs. tin. **Butter Beans** : 1 x 8-ozs. tin. **Mixed Vegetables** : 11 x 6-lb. 5-ozs. tins; 1 x 19-ozs. tin. **Carrots** : 1 x 16-ozs. tin; 1 x 19-ozs. tin; 1 x 8-ozs. tin.

### TINNED SOUP.

**Vegetable** : 4 x 7½-ozs. tins; 5 x 6-ozs. tins; 3 x 16-ozs. tins; **Mock Turtle** : 1 x 15½-ozs. tin. **Chicken Broth** : 2 x 15-ozs. tins; 1 x 15½-ozs. tin; 9 x 16-ozs. tins; 4 x 10-ozs. tins. **Cream of Mushroom** : 4 x 10-ozs. tins. **Irish Stew** : 1 x 16-ozs. tin.

### FRESH AND TINNED FISH.

**Pilchards in Tomatoes** : 6 x 16-ozs. tins; 2 x 6-ozs. tins; 7 x 15-ozs. tins; 4 x 7-ozs. tins; 1 x 4-ozs. tin. **Sardines** : 3 x 3¾-ozs. tins; 1 x 4½-ozs. tins; 2 x 6-ozs. tins; 3 x 4-ozs. tins; 1 x 3¼-ozs. tin. **Shrimps** : 48 x 3¾-ozs. tins; **Crab** : 2 x 6½-ozs. tins. **Crawfish** : 1 x 6-ozs. tin. **Tuna** : 2 x 7-ozs. tins; 1 x 3½-ozs. tin. **Rock Lobster** : 1 x 6-ozs. tin. **Salmon** : 1 x 3¾-ozs. tin; 2 x 8-ozs. tins; 2 x 16-ozs. tins; 1 x 3¼-ozs. tin; 2 x 15½-ozs. tins. **Herrings** : 8½-stone. **Bloaters** : 3-stone. **Haddock** : 2½-stone. **Mussels** : 2-gallons. **Cod Fillets** : 9-stone.

### JAMS.

**Apple and Strawberry** : 1 x 16-ozs. jar. **Strawberry** : 1 x 16-ozs. jar. **Plum** : 1 x 2-lb. jar; 1 x 16-ozs. jar. **Blackcurrant** : 1 x 16-ozs. jar. **Apple and Blackcurrant** : 1 x 16-ozs. jar. **Plum and Raspberry** : 1 x 16-ozs. jar. **Raspberry** : 1 x 16-ozs. jar.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**Apple Puree** : 9 x 24-ozs. tins; 14 x 16-ozs. tins; **Cheese** : 85½-lbs.  
**American Cheese** : 3½-lbs. **Caerphilly Cheese** : 7½-lbs. **Cheese Spread** :  
13½-lbs. **Grapenuts** : 1 x 12-ozs. pkt. **Grapfruit Juice** : 1 x 16-ozs. tin.  
**Grapefruit Segments** : 1 x 30-ozs. tin. **Sauce** : 1-bottle; **Pork Pies** : 36.  
**Butter** : 14½-lbs. **Lava Bread** : 1½-dozen lbs. **Meat Paste** : 2 x 3½-ozs.  
jars. **Beans and Bacon** : 1 x 8-ozs. tin. **Steak and Onions** : 1 x 8-ozs. tin.  
**Apple Puddings** : 7 x 15-ozs. tins. **Spaghetti** : 1 x 8-ozs. tin. **Tomato Juice** :  
3 x 16-ozs. tins. **Virol** : 8 x 8-ozs. cartons. **Pickle** : 1 x 11½-ozs. tin. **Sponge**  
**Mixture** : 36-pkts. **Beef Steak Pudding** : 1 x 16-ozs. tin. **Sandwich Spread** :  
1 x 7-ozs. bottle. **Golden Syrup** : 1 x 2-lb. tin. **Mincemeat** : 1 x 12-ozs.  
jar. **Beans with Steak** : 1 x 16-ozs. tin; 1 x 6-lb. 12-ozs. tin. **Eggs**.  
12½-dozen. **Fish Cakes** : 4-dozen.

### SAFEGUARDING OF FOODSTUFFS DURING PREPARATION, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT.

Whilst the public must be protected against the possibility of consuming diseased, unsound and unwholesome food, one cannot but be impressed with the considerable quantity of food that is condemned, seized or surrendered each year. If time permitted, the examination or analysis of the causes and the circumstances leading to condemnation would be interesting. There is no doubt that much valuable food could be saved if more care and attention was exercised during its manufacture, treatment, storage and transport.

In my Annual Report for 1948 I reported that much food was condemned during the year owing to contact with poisonous or contaminating substances during transport in railway vans and that the attention of the Ministry of Food should be drawn to the matter in an effort to avoid spoilage and the safeguarding of much food then being condemned. Each year we still condemn some food contaminated during transport.

A recent food poisoning outbreak in a South Wales area was discovered to be directly attributed to contamination in a railway van during transport.

### FOOD QUALITY, DESCRIPTION AND LABELLING.

During the year 300 samples of various foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Constant sampling over a wide range of foodstuffs is carried out in order to check that a proper level of quality and food value is maintained in accordance with the law and the standard set by reputable manufacturers. Emphasis on sampling of commodities varies from time to time with changing trends and practices in the food trade.

Your Inspectors are constantly looking out for misleading descriptions and labels on all articles of food which lend themselves to such treatment, e.g. extravagant claims as to beneficial effects of consumption of the particular foods, inferior fruit labelled as being of a more choice variety, absence of statement as to country of origin, thus implying that the food is English.



During the year the attention of several greengrocers was drawn to their failure to disclose the country of origin on imported fruit—particularly tomatoes.

The number and variety of foods submitted for analysis were as follows :—

\*Milk 84; Condensed Milk 3; Sterilized Milk 4; Cheese Spread 2; Butter 5; Margarine 5; Cooking Fat 1; Shredded Beef Suet 1; Dessicated Coconut 2; Ground Almonds 2; Ground Rice 1; Christmas Pudding 1; Cake Mixture 1; Pie Fillings 1; Self Raising Flour 3; Golden Raising Powder 1; Baking Powder 3; Parsley and Thyme Stuffing 1; Salt 1; Malt Vinegar 3; Ground Ginger 1; Ground Cinnamon 1; White Pepper 3; Mixed Spice 1; Mint in Vinegar 1; Canned Soup 3; Canned Fish 1; Canned Luncheon Meat 1; Canned Vegetables 3; Dried Soup 1; Pork Pie 2; Polony 1; Minced Chicken in Chicken Broth 1; Meat Paste 4; Fish Paste 5; Bottled Prawns 1; Soft Drinks 3; Gin 1; Whisky 1; Brandy 1; Rum 1; Coffee and Chicory Essence 3; Jam 3; Minced Meat 2; Liquid Fruit Pectin 1; Sugar 1; Sugar Confectionery 9; Sultanas 3; Mixed Peel 2; Epsom Salts 1; Ice Cream 8; Cake and Pudding Mixture 9; Custard Powder 4; Corn Flour 2; Gravy Browning 4; Chutney 1; Tomato Ketchup 2; Ground Nutmeg 2; Mustard 1; Soup Powder 1; Canned Broth 1; Canned Vienna Sausages 1; Canned Peas 2; Canned Egg Custard 1; Canned Blackcurrant Puree 1; Sausages 2; Tea 3; Honey 2; Cochineal 1; Table Jelly Products 8; Sanatogen 1; Cough Mixture 1; Halibut Liver Oil Capsules 1; Cod Liver Oil 2; Olive Oil 1; Clotted Cream 1; Dripping 2; Puffed Pastry 1; Sponge Mixture 1; Blancmange Powder 1; Sauce 4; Curry Powder 1; French Mustard 1; Canned Apricots 1; Minced Turkey with Stock 1; Tomato Juice 1; Jam and Jelly 2; Fruit Curd 2; Prunes 1; Currants 2; Vitamin Syrup 1; Vitamin Pellets 2; Castor Oil 1; Lard 2; Almond Marzipan 1; Semolina 1; Rice 1; Arrowroot 1; Flour 1; Pickles 1; Mixed Spice 1; Dried Peas 1; Lemon Juice 1; Gelatine 1; Raisins 1; Glace Cherries 1; Cut Peel 1; Saccharin Tablets 1; Vitamin Capsules 1; Tonic Yeast Tablets 1; Glucose 1; Glycerine, Lemon and Honey 1; Disprin Tablets 1; Asprin Tablets 1; Bicarbonate of Soda 2; Aspro Tablets 1.

Total number of samples	....	300
Genuine	....	299
*Adulterated	....	1

The comparison with the previous years is as follows :—

Year	Number of samples taken	Genuine	Not Genuine
1946	162	153	9
1947	196	166	10
1948	200	183	17
1949	249	249	—
1950	242	232	10
1951	229	220	9
1. 52	259	250	9
1953	274	267	7
1954	240	236	4
1955	300	299	1

Number of samples taken per 1,000 of population—Estimated 1954—	
46,000	6.5
Percentage of Milks taken, not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	1.19
Percentage of foods, other than milk, not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	Nil
Percentage of all foods not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	.33



## ADULTERATED SAMPLE.

Of the 300 samples taken of various foods, only one was found, upon analysis, to be below standard. This was a sample of Milk purchased from a producer/retailer and was found to contain milk-fat—2.31 parts per cent. and non-fatty solids—8.67 parts per cent., showing a deficiency in milk-fat to the extent of not less than 23 per cent.

An Appeal-to-the-Cow sample from the corresponding milking the following morning was taken and the Analyst reported upon this as follows :—

Milk fat	.....	2.34 parts per cent.
Non-fatty solids	.....	8.67 parts per cent.

This sample was of inferior quality being 22 parts per cent. below the presumptive standard.

Certain failings were noticed by the Sampling Officer in the methods of milking during the taking of this Appeal-to-the-Cow sample and the attention of the Producer was drawn to this with a view to a better standard of milk being sold.

## THE SALE OF MILK REGULATIONS.

The regulations provide that unless milk contains a minimum of 3% fat and 8.5% milk solids other than milk fat, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that the milk is not genuine. The average percentage composition of the whole of the milk samples in the Borough of Port Talbot in 1954 was as follows :—

Number of milk samples taken	Milk fat percentage	Non-fatty solids— percentage
84	3.53	8.66

The figures for the ten previous years were as follows :—

Year	Number of milk samples examined	Milk fat percentage	Non-fatty solids— percentage
1945	127	3.60	8.68
1946	115	3.47	8.71
1947	124	3.30	8.63
1948	123	3.50	8.45
1949	98	3.56	8.67
1950	118	3.63	8.68
1951	126	3.49	8.65
1952	133	3.55	8.65
1953	128	3.62	8.66
1954	104	3.66	8.63

## **Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925/1953-**

All samples of Milk, Condensed Milk, Clotted Cream, Sterilized Cream and Ice-Cream analysed were free from preservatives.

The samples of Cheese Spread, Butter and Margarine were genuine free from Boric Acid.

The samples of Semolina, Rice, Ground Rice, Arrowroot, Sponge Mixture, Blancmange Powder, Cornflour, Flour, Cake and Pudding Mixture, Custard Powder, Christmas Pudding and Pie Filling were genuine free from sulphites.

The Chutney, Pickles, Sauce and Tomato Ketchup were genuine free from sulphites, benzoic and salicylic acids. The Tomato Ketchup samples had satisfactory copper content of 12 p.p.m. and 7 p.p.m. respectively (maximum limit 50 parts per million).

The samples of Vinegar were genuine Malt Vinegar free from mineral acid and containing not more than a trace of arsenic.

The Mixed Spice, Ground Nutmeg, White Pepper, Mustard, Ground Cinnamon, and Curry Powder were genuine from extraneous matter. The Curry Powder had a lead content of 1 p.p.m. (maximum limit 10 parts per million).

The Canned Products were genuine containing not more than traces of tin.

Samples of Meat Paste and Fish Paste were free from boric acid and sulphites.

Samples of Coffee and Chicory Essence were genuine free from sulphites, benzoic and salicylic acids and those of Tea were free from extraneous siliceous matter.

The Honey, Jam, Table Jelly, Fruit Curd, Mincemeat and Sugar Confectionery were genuine free from sulphites, benzoic and salicylic acids.

The Gelatine had a sulphur content of 438 parts per million (maximum limit 1,000 parts per million).

The Currants, Raisins, Sultanas, Glace Cherries, Cut Peel, Prunes and Sugar were free from sulphites.

The Beef Sausages were genuine free from boric acid and having satisfactory contents of sulphur dioxide.

The Soft Drink was genuine free from sulphites, benzoic and salicylic acids.

## **THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949-54. THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949-54. THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILIZED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949-53.**

All dairies where milk or milk utensils were stored were regularly inspected during the year.

**THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (SPECIFIED AREAS)  
(No. 2) ORDER, 1955. PORT TALBOT AS A SPECIFIED  
AREA WHERE DESIGNATED MILK ONLY CAN BE SOLD  
BY RETAIL**

Throughout the years we have looked forward to the day when only graded or designated milk would be sold within the Borough. In April 1955 a notice was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, that the Minister, The Rt. Hon. D. Heathcoat-Amery, M.P. had declared his intention, subject to any representations that would be made, of laying before Parliament a draft order under Section 23 of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 which would provide for the classifying of Port Talbot as a "Specified Area" in which from an appointed day, milk of special designation only could be sold by retail.

The matter was widely publicised at the time and representative organisations were invited to submit their views to the Minister. Council was also invited to consider the Minister's proposal and furnish him with its observations thereon.

For many years Council has been active in encouraging the production and sale of designated milks. Progressively throughout the years the sale of graded milk had increased to such an extent that by the time of the passing of the Order at least 95 % of the milk sold in this area was designated.

Council informed the Minister that it welcomed his intention of promoting a Draft Order prohibiting the sale of ungraded milk within the Borough.

The fact that the Order was eventually approved without opposition was in itself an indication of the tremendous change that has taken place in the retailing of milk during the last few years. The Order came into operation on the 6th of December, 1955. Consumers are now to reap the advantage of the steady increase in their demands for graded milk. Housewives cannot fail to appreciate the advantages of a pre-packed product produced under good conditions and having the better keeping qualities attributable to graded milk.

The number of licenses granted during 1955 for the sale of designated milks were :—

Pasteurised :	(a) Dealers Licences .....	24
	(b) Supplementary Licences .....	4
Sterilized :	(a) Dealers Licences .....	15
	(b) Supplementary Licences .....	2
Tuberculin Tested :	(a) Dealers Licences .....	24
	(b) Supplementary Licences .....	3

The sampling and examination of our milk supply undertaken during the year was as follows :—

Nature of examination	Number submitted	Number satisfactory	Number not satisfactory
Adulteration	84	83	1*
Bacterial Purity	81	79	2
Presence of Tuberculosis	20	20	Nil

\* Deficient in fat. Appeal-to-Cow sample showed similar fat deficiency.

### MISUSE OF BOTTLES

We are pleased to report that following representations made during 1954, dairy firms in the area made every effort to collect empty milk bottles from the various cul-de-sacs and open spaces and also discontinued the practice of allowing empty milk bottles and crates to accumulate at certain points before collection. Whilst every effort is made by Council and its officers to protect consumers of bottled food products, we still find some members of the public both indifferent and unco-operative, for time and again we discover numerous unwashed milk bottles in back gardens and places inaccessible to the milk roundsmen. There are still too many cases of milk bottles being returned to the roundsman unwashed and sometimes contaminated by objectionable and poisonous liquids such as disinfectants, paraffin, turpentine, bleach, methylated spirits, etc. When these contaminated bottles are discovered at the dairy they are destroyed, but with the best administration possible, bottles may sometimes show very little visible evidence of such contamination.

The National Association of Soft Drinks Manufacturers has recently drawn attention to similar dangerous practices in so far as soft drinks are concerned. The Association quotes cases of people taking empty soft drink bottles to a chemist, ironmonger or other retailer, with a request that the bottles be filled with turpentine or other dangerous contaminant. It quotes examples of the abuse being assisted, and often perpetrated, by shop-keepers where direct sales of bleach product were made in soft drink bottles. It further points out the dangers arising from the possibility of harmful fluids in bottles of this kind being easily mistaken, particularly by children, for soft drinks, with perhaps fatal consequences.

I can recall at an Inquest, held locally many years ago, evidence being given that the victim had inadvertently drunk disinfectant from a beer bottle, believing same to contain beer.

Last year the Trade Association brought proceedings under the Merchandise Marks Act against bleach manufacturers for packing and selling bleach in bottles bearing the trade marks of a well known firm of lime juice manufacturers. In this case, I understand, the bleach resembled closely in colour and appearance the lime juice normally sold in bottles. The defendants were found guilty on all counts and fines were imposed.



There is a progressive trend in the public health field to improve the methods of storage, transport and distribution of food. Yet it is discouraging to find that in spite of improvements and the time and effort given to protect consumers, thoughtlessness and indifference on the part of the people we set out to protect, give rise to practices which produce new dangers and tend to discourage the good work of so many.

## **FOOD HYGIENE, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 AND REGULATIONS MADE THEREUNDER FOR OBSERVING CLEANLINESS, ETC., IN STORAGE, HANDLING, WRAPPING AND DELIVERY OF FOOD.**

For some years Council and its officers have given much time and attention to raising standards of food hygiene within the Borough. Much good work has been accomplished in the improvement of methods of storage, handling, distribution and protection from contamination of food exposed for sale. The structural condition of premises have been improved and washing and other essential facilities provided. Food staffs in business premises and works' canteens have been advised and much publicity given to the importance of good food hygiene practice. Much has been achieved by close collaboration with the food trade which has included meetings with sections of trades people at the office, presided over by the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and meetings with individual trades people and their staffs at their premises. The local press has also played a valuable part in giving publicity in its newspapers to our food hygiene activities. From regular visits of inspection to food premises and works' canteens we are indeed satisfied that there is a real appreciation by both management and staffs of the need of maintaining a high standard of food hygiene. The Ministry of Health has emphasised that it is in the education of food handlers and in co-operation between the trade and local authorities, that the best chance of success lies in reducing preventable food-borne disease.

In a recent report presented to the Public Health Committee, Dr. Williams, your Medical Officer of Health, expresses pleasure at the remarkable low local notification rate of dysentery and food poisoning, especially at a time when the national notification rates are rising alarmingly.

We are modest enough to suggest with some satisfaction that were it not for the clean food campaign that has been continuously waged in this Borough during the post-war years, we would, perhaps, not be enjoying this relative freedom from food poisoning outbreaks. In this respect we submit that our activities are paying a rich dividend.



## **Water Supplies.**

Two hundred and sixty three samples of water were taken by your Sanitary Officers for bacteriological examination. Most of these were obtained from various points along the course of your several water supplies so that an adequate check could be maintained on the general purity of our drinking water. Samples were also taken from other water supplies in order to ascertain whether the quality and bacterial condition would justify their use as augmented emergency supplies during periods of drought.

Of the 263 samples taken, 42 failed to reach the bacterial standard required. These were from the following sources :—

22 from Local Authority supplies.

9 from Private supplies.

11 from possible emergency supplies.

Any failure of a local authority supply to give the required bacteriological standard was immediately investigated, repeat samples obtained and any necessary remedial action taken.

In a search for augmented emergency supplies, seven chemical samples were taken, the analysis of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

All the sampling results were examined by your Medical Officer of Health and copies of same forwarded to the Borough Surveyor.

## **Inspection of Corporation Houses.**

An inspection of groups of Council houses is now undertaken by the Department. Inspection is also made of all Corporation houses during change or termination of tenancy. Such inspection is concerned with the maintenance of general cleanliness and the detection and eradication of vermin. In this connection 709 inspections were made and 10 cases of unsatisfactory conditions were reported to your Housing Manager. Should unsatisfactory conditions be discovered, the occupier is called upon to take the necessary steps towards an improvement. Every assistance is given by the Department by way of advice, provision of fumigants and in extreme cases disinfestation is undertaken.

## **Land Charges Act, 1925.**

Solicitors acting on behalf of clients purchasing houses enquire by application to the Town Clerk as to the existence of any charges, notices of repair or dilapidations or the proposals of the local authority in respect of such houses. 459 enquiries relating to such properties were received from the Town Clerk's Department and dealt with during the year.

## **Public Abattoir.**

The general conditions at the Public Abattoir have been fully reported upon in previous annual reports. These premises meet our needs until a modern abattoir can be provided. This is an urgent necessity. Throughout the years, Council has been aware of the short-comings associated with our Abattoir and the need for a modern premises.

During the immediate post-war years, plans were prepared and approval sought for extensive slaughterhouse improvements. Final approval was withheld until eventually, in 1954, rationing and the control of meat was discontinued. Apart from the general condition of the premises there was adequate accommodation and facilities to meet the needs of the Borough. Accordingly, Council entered into an arrangement with the Fatstock Marketing Corporation for its continued use as a slaughtering point. Meantime, the position has been most uncertain. Recently, however, there has been published a White Paper (Cmd. 9761) which indicated the Government's long-term policy for regulating the provision of slaughterhouses in England and Wales. The new policy is based on the recommendations of the Inter-departmental Committee on Slaughterhouses (England and Wales) which report was published last July.

Perhaps the most important point which emerges from this statement of policy is that the original conception of moderate concentration, that is the restriction of the number of slaughterhouses and the control of their siting by Central Planning, has finally been abandoned. The Inter-departmental Committee, in view of new developments since the de-control of fatstock was made in June, 1954, express the view that the central planning of slaughterhouses was no longer advisable and recommended instead that, subject to normal Town Planning requirements and to the premises reaching prescribed standards, there shall be a limited period during which meat traders should be free to provide their own slaughterhouses of the type and in the places best suited to their individual businesses. After this period a measure of control would be imposed. The Government has now agreed with the Committee's conclusion, which will be implemented, with certain minor alterations. Minimum standards for the construction, layout and equipment of slaughterhouses will be prescribed by regulation. These standards will apply to new buildings but not to existing premises until dates to be appointed. Local authorities will be called upon once again to report to the Minister on slaughtering facilities and standards of slaughterhouses in their area.

At the time of writing this report, this Government Policy to regulate the provision of slaughterhouses in England and Wales has not been considered by Council.

As recommended by Memo 3/Meat, ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of all animals is undertaken and an Inspector is present throughout the whole period of slaughtering. All meat inspected and passed bears the stamp of the Port Talbot Corporation.

The number of animals killed at varying periods is such that the Inspector has found himself, from time to time, working under pressure. The Inspector is concerned at all times that no unsound or diseased meat should go undetected. He also realises that whatever meat he condemns may be the subject of further examination by an aggrieved owner who may utilize the services of a veterinary surgeon. Any carcase or organ in respect of which he finds himself unable to express an immediate and final opinion is placed on one side for further examination at the close of the slaughtering period. The examination is visual, by palpation of some organs and by the process of several incisions into carcase and organs together with other methods suggested in Memo 3/Meat. It is important also that he should keep records of diseases in respect of every animal.

Particulars of diseased and unsound meat condemned at our Abattoir are found under the heading of "Meat and Food Inspection."

A total of 30,693 animals was killed and examined during the year. The figures for the previous 10 years being as follows :—

1945	.....	22,978	1950	.....	21,132
1946	.....	20,978	1951	.....	23,924
1947	.....	14,920	1952	.....	26,058
1948	.....	14,519	1953	.....	27,383
1949	.....	19,519	1954	.....	44,497

It will be noticed that the number of animals killed in 1955 are considerably less than those killed the previous year, but still more than those killed in each of the previous nine years.

Detailed figures for the year are shown on the following page.

### **HANDLING AND TRANSPORT OF MEAT.**

The handling and transport of meat has been fairly satisfactory. The vehicles used are all especially constructed closed vans which afford every protection from contamination by dust or filth.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924 AND SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1953.**

Arrangements between the Slaughterhouse Manager and your Inspectors worked very harmoniously during the year. The times of slaughtering varied considerably. Inspectors have been obliged to work late into the evenings, and often during weekends. In no single instance was it necessary to issue a warning or corrective during the year, for the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act were complied with in every respect.

# ANNUAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE RETURNS.

The weekly slaughtering returns for 1955 were as follows :—

1955 Week Ending	Bulls, Bullocks and Heifers		Cows		Calves		Sheep		Pigs	
	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total
Jan. 9	1177	1177	75	75	17	17	838	838	168	168
16	838	2015	47	122	15	32	592	1430	125	293
23	631	2646	80	202	11	43	311	1741	171	464
30	703	3349	52	254	6	49	467	2208	128	592
Feb. 6	715	4064	62	316	12	61	477	2685	120	712
13	592	4656	72	388	1	62	378	3063	141	853
20	643	5299	111	499	Nil	62	386	3449	145	998
27	426	5725	82	581	Nil	66	178	3627	162	1160
March 6	500	6225	62	643	3	69	224	3851	155	1315
13	560	6785	80	723	1	70	155	4006	258	1573
20	383	7168	50	773	1	71	93	4099	186	1759
27	369	7537	36	809	1	72	112	4211	172	1931
April 3	319	7856	41	850	1	73	36	4247	183	2114
10	298	8154	11	861	2	75	88	4335	146	2260
17	511	8665	56	917	4	79	174	4509	244	2504
24	334	8999	36	953	1	80	22	4531	236	2740
May 1	384	9383	32	985	1	81	109	4640	197	2937
8	384	9767	34	1019	2	83	92	4732	203	3140
15	303	10070	17	1036	Nil	83	119	4851	145	3285
22	338	10408	32	1068	2	85	129	4980	140	3425
29	259	10667	6	1074	Nil	85	168	5148	69	3494
June 5	407	11074	29	1103	4	89	254	5402	99	3593
12	299	11373	18	1121	1	90	227	5629	29	3622
19	495	11868	19	1140	Nil	90	330	5959	146	3768
26	489	12357	25	1165	Nil	90	399	6358	63	3831
3	662	13019	30	1195	2	91	573	6931	52	3883
July 10	804	13823	23	1218	5	96	617	7548	159	4042
17	639	14462	26	1244	16	99	511	8059	83	4125
24	546	15008	24	1268	27	100	384	8443	110	4235
31	441	15449	11	1279	1	104	272	8715	153	4388
August 7	612	16061	43	1322	Nil	109	494	9209	70	4458
14	550	16611	32	1354	5	112	417	9626	70	4528
21	522	17133	30	1384	28	113	418	10044	56	4584
28	504	17637	23	1407	17	114	426	10470	37	4621



1955		Bulls, Bullocks and Heifers		Cows		Calves		Sheep		Pigs	
Week Ending	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	
Sept.	4	663	18300	31	1438	3	117	36	1061	542	11012
	11	650	18950	37	1475	1	118	25	1086	557	11569
	18	576	19526	26	1501	5	123	38	1124	460	12029
October	25	672	20198	26	1527	1	124	21	1145	535	12564
	2	726	20924	35	1562	3	127	38	1183	598	13162
	9	772	21696	34	1596	11	138	32	1215	640	13802
Nov.	16	950	22646	34	1630	7	145	47	1262	794	14596
	23	933	23579	37	1667	10	155	46	1308	743	15339
	30	871	24450	42	1709	7	162	41	1349	707	16046
Dec.	6	669	25119	39	1748	6	168	33	1382	527	16573
	13	792	25911	42	1790	6	174	44	1426	627	17200
	20	940	26851	40	1830	5	179	37	1463	742	17942
Dec.	27	844	27695	33	1863	7	186	29	1492	662	18604
	4	799	28494	44	1907	6	192	26	1518	620	19224
	11	668	29162	35	1942	6	198	19	1537	495	19719
Dec.	18	641	29803	24	1966	5	203	19	1556	448	20167
	25	336	30139	11	1977	1	204	20	1576	160	20327
	31	554	30693	38	2015	3	207	—	1576	464	20791

# CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART DURING 1955

Number Killed Number Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs		Pigs
						Cows	Cows			Lambs	Lambs	
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</b>												
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...	2	18	18	35	97	13	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	808	149	149	69	7566	3181	
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	...	...	...	...	...	40.2	80.67	80.67	6.6	32.04	53.32	
<b>Tuberculosis Only :</b>												
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...	8	3	3	—	—	4	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	149	14	14	—	—	218	
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	7.79	8.21	8.21	—	—	3.64	
<b>Cysticercosis :</b>												
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	20	4	4	—	—	—	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	...	...	...	...	20	4	4	—	—	—	
Generalised and totally condemned	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	



## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Much time and attention was devoted throughout the year to the several sources of atmospheric pollution. The gigantic installations of the Steel Company of Wales being obviously the main source of such pollution. We are, of course, appreciative of the prosperity we enjoy in this area as a result of its industrial development. Such a fact, however, should not be an excuse for not doing everything possible to maintain the purity of the atmosphere we breath. We can enjoy both prosperity and a clean atmosphere.

We are gradually building up records wherein we can appreciate whether over the years there is an improvement in our atmospheric conditions. These records are included in this report.

Shall we address ourselves to these figures and ask ourselves if we are satisfied that we—the local authority, the citizens and the industrialists, are doing our best to ensure a clean atmosphere for Port Talbot ?

There is a tendency during periods of heavy pollution to blame weather conditions. It must, however, be appreciated that the emission of polluting dust and fume is the cause of the trouble and that wind and weather conditions do not in themselves produce pollution. We are, nevertheless, fortunate that the wind direction is sometimes away from the residential areas of our town and accordingly the effect of the pollution is reduced. We cannot exercise control over the weather but we can on the emission of polluting material into the atmosphere. The remedy is still in our hands—the citizen with his domestic chimney and the industrialist with his smoke, grit and dust polluting installations.

### DEPOSITED POLLUTION OF DUST, SOOT, ETC.

(In tons per square mile).

Month	Town Centre				Taibach			
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1952	1953	1954	1955
Jan.		17.76	22.48	17.84		43.70	38.05	45.48
Feb.		20.68	19.56	13.43		94.28	45.89	33.74
March		18.54	19.56	30.72		54.20	53.66	51.12
April		16.60	10.50	22.36		45.35	38.22	69.39
May		15.41	19.27	28.69		47.32	47.26	99.06
June		19.00	24.10	28.75		54.20	62.25	128.39
July		33.06	26.05	20.80		91.60	82.60	64.34
August	38.69	25.63	20.35	12.88	459.80	64.09	110.25	76.39
Sept.	14.07	36.12	35.56	23.12	106.62	69.36	137.23	82.34
October	24.72	23.61	29.89	24.33	81.03	47.36	108.51	98.06
Nov.	13.07	24.10	36.75	30.59	35.18	61.28	97.99	92.88
Dec.	22.17	11.92	23.87	43.63	45.07	25.40	47.90	345.4
Total	112.72	262.42	287.94	297.14	727.70	698.14	869.81	1186.23

## **POLLUTION BY SULPHUR GASES**

We can, of course, see much of the pollution caused by smoke, grit and dust. One of the most deleterious products of combustion of fuel is, however, sulphur present in the form of its oxides, mainly sulphur dioxide. This sulphur gas when liberated combines with moisture and forms sulphuric acid which seriously damages stonework, metal work and vegetation. The breathing of something capable of such corrosive action cannot but be injurious to our health. These sulphur gases are discharged into the atmosphere wherever fuel in the form of coal, coke, fuel oil, or unpurified coal gases are burnt. When coal is burnt much of the sulphur is driven off, a portion remaining behind in the ash. The amount of sulphur dioxide emitted, of course, depends on the coal. Coals would contain from 2 to 4% of sulphur (some of our local coal has been known to contain as much as 14%).

It is unfortunate that the efficiency of combustion, effective so far as smoke and grit pollution are concerned, does not affect the quantity of sulphur dioxide evolved. If we could remove all the smoke, grit and dust pollution locally we would still have pollution from an excess of sulphur dioxide. We must, therefore, concentrate on the reduction of both forms of atmospheric pollution.

### **TOWARDS A REMEDY**

It is essential that all possible steps should be taken to minimise sulphur emissions for, whatever their damaging affect may be under normal conditions, they can reach an injurious concentration during a period of fog. This was experienced in the Meuse Valley, Belgium and more recently in London. (Details of these disasters are indeed frightening.)

#### **Domestic.**

The only remedies here are the burning of coal low in sulphur content or the increasing use of electricity and/or gas. The coke oven gas obtained from the Steel Company of Wales is cleansed of its impurities, such as sulphur, by the Wales Gas Board before it is distributed for domestic purposes.

#### **Industrial.**

Much has been done to remove grit and sulphur by the cleansing of coals. In smaller industries, increasing the height of stacks has helped to disperse the pollution over a wider area. A theoretical formula that concentration at ground level is inversely proportional to the square of stack height has found practical corroboration. The practice or aim of erecting stacks at least  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the height of neighbouring premises naturally diffuses the emission of gases. Locally, however, having regard to our high mountainous hinterland, dispersal, as a result, cannot be so effective and pollution is pocketed or enclosed in the area. Again while diffusion under normal weather conditions may be satisfactory,

it may be most unsatisfactory or even dangerous during periods of low dense fog. It has been ascertained that one power station alone burning 2,000 tons of coal per day could emit more than 1,000,000,000 cubic feet of flue gas into the atmosphere. With coal containing only one per cent. of emissive sulphur the quantity of sulphur dioxide thrown into the atmosphere would be about 40 tons, which is equivalent to 60 tons of sulphuric acid, the final product.

There is no doubt that much of the sulphur pollution of the atmosphere at Port Talbot comes from the Steel Company installations. Some escapes in the process involved in the carbonisation of coal, and much is emitted from the sulphur containing coke oven gas used in the various installations or burnt off to waste; some comes from the use of fuel oil. One feels, however, that much could be done to reduce the sulphur pollution from the Margam Works by the extraction of sulphur—that now goes into the atmosphere—from the coke oven gas. The Beaver Committee set up by the Government to investigate the effects of atmospheric pollution has the following to say in respect of sulphur pollution.

“ We would point out that sulphur is an important raw material for industry, and that world supplies of sulphur for the future are by no means sure. There are possibilities (to put it no higher) that significant amounts of sulphur and saleable sulphur compounds could be recovered from coal-cleansing plants, from coke oven gas, from oil refinery gases, from producer gas and from the flue gases of very large fuel-burning installations. It would seem to us that expenditure on the removal of sulphur from the atmosphere, which would at the same time yield sulphur and saleable sulphur compounds from indigenous raw material might well be a profitable national investment, and that Government assistance towards the development of the process would be worth considering ”.

Sulphur is one of the indispensable raw materials of industry. Innumerable processes depend on it or on its derivatives, notably sulphuric acid. In the United Kingdom consumption has doubled since before the first world war, and now approaches the entire output of the Sierran mines at approximately a quarter of a million tons. It is with this figure that the five million tons of sulphur released into the atmosphere of our country every year in obtaining heat and power from our coal supplies may be compared.

There is already a method for extracting sulphur from coke oven gas functioning very successfully at an integrated steelworks in another part of the country. This plant extracts the sulphur from the coke oven gas and converts it, by means of an ingenious chemical process, into sulphuric acid. Eighty per cent. of the sulphur is removed with the result that the air in the area of this works is much cleaner than what it was. Hence, we



have a reduction in atmospheric pollution and the reclamation of an invaluable industrial commodity such as sulphuric acid. Within two years of its operation this plant has recovered some 14,000 tons of sulphuric acid.

One has reason to believe that the Steel Company of Wales carbonises as much coal in one day as is burnt for domestic purposes throughout the whole Borough in any average month. A reduction from 70 to 80% of this sulphur pollution from the coke oven gas used as fuel and that allowed to be burnt off to waste would, therefore, be a considerable contribution towards our atmospheric cleanliness. Having regard to the fact that the number of coke ovens at Margam is being progressively increased and the increasing use of coke oven gas and oil as fuels, representations were made during the year by Council to the Steel Company of Wales to take steps towards a reduction of sulphur pollution by removing the sulphur content of the coke oven gas. We realise, of course, that other fuels give forth sulphur gases but the cleansing of the coke oven gas alone would, at least, be a substantial contribution to a reduction of the sulphur gases liberated into our atmosphere.

### **EXAMINATION OF SULPHUR POLLUTION FIGURES SET OUT IN ACCOMPANYING TABLES.**

In order to conform with normal practice in studying sulphur pollution in relation to seasons, the winter period is taken from November to March (inclusive) and the summer period from May to September (inclusive). Figures for April and October are omitted when dealing with seasonal pollution.

The first thing that is obvious when examining these figures is that there is a reduced sulphur pollution during the summer months when compared with the winter months figures. To approach the subject, therefore, of seasonal variances and draw conclusions from these records, the question arises as to the source of sulphur dioxide, whether it is mainly industrial, mainly domestic or a combination of both.

Sulphur is emitted into the atmosphere wherever coal is burnt, whether it be the domestic or the works chimney. During the summer months, especially having regard to the price of coal, there is practically a complete absence of the domestic fire. We have, therefore, reason to assume that the absence of domestic fires in the summer months contributes to the reduction of sulphur pollution shown in our records during these months. It is also borne out by the average monthly consumption of domestic coal in the Borough during winter and summer months which is 3,700 tons and 2,300 tons respectively. It is suggested that the low rainfall in the summer months compared with the heavy rainfall during the winter months may also affect the seasonal difference in our recorded figures. To draw any further conclusions would, perhaps, be speculative and dangerous.

Month	1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Taibach	Town Centre	Taibach	Town Centre	Taibach Aberavon
January	1.88	0.44	1.31	0.67	1.42	1.32	1.42	1.21	1.80	1.51 —
February	2.08	0.40	1.43	0.65	1.86	1.13	1.47	1.23	1.10	1.03 —
March	1.52	0.46	0.92	0.41	1.79	2.04	1.26	1.10	0.92	1.12 —
April	1.66	0.43	1.08	0.34	1.02	0.92	0.99	0.98	0.89	1.06 0.68
May	0.74	0.26	0.75	0.25	1.00	0.94	1.03	0.79	1.28	1.86 0.76
June	1.41	0.33	1.08	0.36	1.23	0.74	1.16	0.82	0.98	1.01 0.69
July	1.27	0.25	0.66	0.45	1.36	1.78	1.14	0.82	0.60	0.66 0.30
August	1.03	0.15	0.77	Station discontinued and transferred to Taibach — 31/7/52	0.82	0.69	0.90	0.69	0.64	0.72 0.57
Sept.	0.96	0.25	0.88		1.33	1.15	1.22	1.31	1.12	0.87 0.65
October	1.09	0.44	1.43	1.66	0.94	0.94	1.76	3.29	1.34	0.85 0.86
November	1.66	0.46	1.23	1.47	1.42	1.64	1.45	2.05	1.31	1.13 0.89
December	1.61	0.52	1.40	1.37	1.39	1.41	1.59	1.40	1.27	1.81 1.18

The mean monthly seasonal figures are as follows :—

	Summer 1951		Winter 1951/52		Summer 1952		Winter 1952/53		Summer 1953		Winter 1953/54		Summer 1954		Winter 1954/55		Summer 1955	
	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Groes	Town Centre	Groes
Town Centre	...	...	1.08	...	1.31	...	1.42	...	1.76	...	1.45	...	1.34	...	1.81	...	1.09	...
Groes	...	...	0.248	...	0.67	...	0.94	...	0.99	...	1.40	...	0.89	...	1.51	...	0.89	...
Taibach	...	...	0.542	...	0.41	...	1.32	...	1.10	...	1.21	...	1.06	...	1.03	...	1.024	...
Aberavon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.594	...

....This station came into being on the 1st April, 1955



## Port Talbot Rainfall.

The rainfall for 1955 shows a substantial decrease over 1954 whereas there was considerably more sunshine than that recorded in 1954.

		Rainfall in inches.							Sunshine in hours.	
		Town Centre	Town Centre	Groes	Groes	Taibach	Taibach	General Hospital	Groes	Groes
		1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1955	1954	1955
January		3.48	2.47	4.18	3.36	3.15	2.77		67.0	37.5
February		4.39	2.40	5.16	2.87	4.67	2.27		79.3	86.1
March		2.96	2.27	3.92	2.4	3.31	2.33		108.3	173.7
April		1.08	3.01	1.11	3.33	1.06	2.71	2.96	214.0	158.4
May		2.00	4.67	2.36	4.13	2.08	4.27	4.76	163.0	202.7
June		4.56	5.46	5.31	5.13	4.74	5.23	5.84	132.3	81.6
July		5.91	0.51	5.73	0.84	5.06	0.59	0.78	85.9	252.6
August		5.15	0.78	4.73	0.81	4.69	0.69	0.94	128.2	212.5
Sept.		5.84	2.63	7.02	2.03	5.41	1.94	2.64	153.8	162.3
October		5.86	2.23	7.89	2.30	6.19	2.15	2.27	53.5	119.9
Nov.		5.99	3.54	9.73	4.16	6.21	3.92	4.36	36.8	82.6
December		4.21	6.03	4.34	7.37	3.95	6.24	5.82	37.4	21.9
Totals		51.4	36.00	61.57	38.37	50.52	35.11	30.37	1259.5	1591.8

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

Our rodent activities were well maintained during the year having regard to the prolonged illness and untimely death of your Rodent Officer. We were, however, only able to undertake one sewer treatment whereas in past years this work has been done bi-annually.

Our sewers, refuse dumps and several of our dwelling houses and business premises were treated for rat infestation during the year. Subject to our administrative arrangement being in conformity with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements, a grant of 50% of our total irrecoverable expenditure is made by the Ministry towards our rodent destruction work. When it is realised that the grant is also made in respect of the treatment of our sewers, refuse dumps, and other Council properties, of which it is the legal obligation of Council to keep free of rats, this grant represents something like 75% of our total administrative costs.

We treat private dwellings free of charge to the occupier unless, of course, there is gross negligence contributing to the rat infestation. Work is undertaken on business and industrial premises subject to the reimbursement of the cost of such work to the local authority. The Council costs include the time of the Rodent Operative, plus the cost of material, plus 25% establishment charge. A total of 37 business premises were treated during the year, a total of £35 being paid to Council in respect of such work.

A brief record of our activities during the year is as follows :

#### Private Dwellings.

Number of houses	Baiting Points	Sausage Rusk used	Poison used	Estimated kill	Bodies seen
293	1097	529-lbs. 6½-ozs.	2-lbs. 4¼-ozs.	1988	161

#### Business Premises.

Number of premises	Baiting Points	Sausage Rusk used	Poison used	Estimated kill	Bodies seen
37	332	199-lbs. 1-oz.	1-lb. 4¾-ozs.	976	98

#### Local Authority Premises.

Number of premises	Baiting Points	Sausage Rusk used	Poison used	Estimated kill	Bodies seen
4	277	90-lbs. 12-ozs.	8½-ozs.	437	51

#### Sewer Treatment.

Number of manholes baited	Sausage Rusk used	Poison used	Estimated kill	Bodies seen
572	177-lbs.	2-lbs ½-oz.	1515	37*

\* Seen in manholes. Impossible to see other bodies as obviously they would die in underground maze of sewers.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

We have only two lodging houses in the Borough. These are registered annually. These premises require constant supervision to ensure that a reasonable standard of cleanliness and sanitation is maintained. Fifty-six visits of inspection were made during the year, some of these visits being made late at night. A check on the number of lodgers accommodated in these houses is made from time to time. The number of beds and the average number of lodgers in both lodging houses during the year was as follows :—

Premises	No. of beds allowed	No. of lodgers accommodated	Amount of spare accommodation
40/42 Cwmavon Road	55	20	35
55/57 Greenpark	52	25	27
	107	45	62

It will be appreciated from the foregoing particulars that ample lodging house accommodation exists in the Borough.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES

The only offensive trades in the area are those of fat melting and extracting, and rag and bone collection. Forty-four visits of inspection were made during the year.

### CINEMAS.

A total of 47 visits of inspection were made to the six cinemas of the Borough. These are licensed annually when reports of officers of Council and the Fire Service Officer of the Glamorgan County Council are considered at a meeting of the Cinema Licensing Committee. The attention of the Committee is directed to the structural condition, suitability and sufficiency of ventilation, heating, lighting, condition of cleanliness and means of protection and escape from fire, etc. One is very pleased to report that the general hygienic condition of our cinemas during 1955 was very satisfactory.

## CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Certificates of disrepair were granted during the year for the following :—

Station House, General Station, Port Talbot.  
 3, 24 and 30 Mabel Street, Aberavon.  
 1 Michna Street, Aberavon.  
 41 Greenpark Street, Aberavon.  
 5, 7 and 25 Cornwall Street, Aberavon.  
 2 Lilian Street, Aberavon.  
 34 Crown Street, Port Talbot.  
 34 Tanygroes Street, Port Talbot.  
 4 Wilden Avenue, Margam.  
 2, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 Maesteg Road, Bryn.

## FACTORIES.

The activities of your Sanitary Department in relation to these duties imposed upon this Council by the Factory Acts of 1937 and 1948 were as follows :—

### 1. Inspection of Factories.

Premises on Register	Inspection	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
238	286	—	—

### 2. Particulars Found in Factories.

Cases in which defects were found					
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspector Inspector		Cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	7	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ....	1	1	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ....	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ....	6	6	—	—	—
Totals ....	19	19	—	3	—

Work carried out during the year was :—

Cleansing carried out .....	7
W.C. accommodation improved .....	4
Separate W.C.'s. provided .....	1
Ventilation improved .....	2
Accumulations removed .....	2
Floors repaired .....	1
Walls repaired .....	4

### SLUM CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES.

Twenty-six Demolition Orders were made and four Undertakings to Close Unfit Houses were accepted during 1955.

### FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME.

In accordance with the requirements of the Housing, Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 our proposals for dealing with unfit houses were submitted to the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. By the end of the year Council had agreed to phase its activities into a five year programme. It was decided that all the individual unfit houses already scheduled should be dealt with in the first year programme. These properties were :—

Hawthorne Cottage, Baglan .....	Demolition Order.
18 and 22 Talbot Street, Aberavon .....	Closing Orders.
Coed Park Lodge, Brynbryddan .....	Demolition Order.
10, 11 and 12 High Street, Cwmavon .....	Closing Orders.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 Mill Row, Taibach .....	Demolition Orders.
Penrhiwgoch Cottage .....	Demolition Order.
Whitford Cottage, Baglan .....	Demolition Order.
Darkwood Cottage, Baglan .....	Demolition Order.
House in Alexander, Engineering Works, Baglan .....	Demolition Order.
1 Maesmadoc Cottage, Baglan .....	Demolition Order.
1 and 2 Braidens Cottage, Margam .....	Demolition Orders.
Rose Cottage, Cwmbrombil .....	Demolition Order.
Bridge House, Water Street, Margam .....	Demolition Order.
1 and 2 Rose Cottages, Penybryn .....	Demolition Orders.
Grove Cottage, Margam .....	Demolition Order.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 Incline Row, Taibach .....	Demolition Orders.
1 Schoolroom Row, Pontrhydyfen .....	Closing Order.

At the time of writing this report Demolition or Closing Orders have been made in respect of the 43 Individual Unfit Houses which had been scheduled in our Five Year Programme. No appeals have been entered in the County Court against any of these Orders.



The following streets or blocks of houses are to be dealt with in accordance with the Clearance Area Procedure of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

<b>(a) 1st Year.</b>						No. of houses
Wern Square	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	51
Wern Place	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Picton Street	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Richard Street	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Charles Street	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Craddock Street	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Mountain Row	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9

<b>(b) 2nd Year.</b>						
Cwmavon Road	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Talbot Street and Cwmavon Road	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Pantdu	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43
Blackwells	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Greenpark Street	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54

<b>(c) 3rd Year.</b>						
Tyr Arthur Row	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Tewgoed Row	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Engine Row	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Copper Row	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Vivian Row	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9

<b>(d) 4th Year.</b>						
Balaclava, Taibach	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Constant Hill	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Inkerman Row (East)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Commercial Road, Taibach	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Merthyr Row, Cwmavon	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Church Square, Cwmavon	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
London Row, Cwmavon	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
Cross Row, Cwmavon	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16

<b>(e) 5th Year.</b>						
Penycae Row	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Lletty Harry	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Oakwood Row, Pontrhydyfen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
Schoolroom Row, Pontrhydyfen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Corlannau	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The investigation of the general conditions associated with cases of infectious disease notified is undertaken by your Sanitary Inspectors. The isolation of patients, contacts and possible source of infection is checked. Cases are sometimes reported which afterwards prove to be negative. All reported cases are therefore investigated and disinfection and other precautions carried out, regardless of whether they are afterwards proved to be negative. Disinfection is also undertaken in cases of Tuberculosis, and in respect of other illnesses and diseases upon request. Much bedding and clothing is disinfected by steam at the Groeswen Hospital, by permission of the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee.

The number of inspections made during the year under this heading was 134 and a total of 69 houses and 131 lots of bedding, clothing, etc., was disinfected.

The positive cases dealt with during 1955 were as follows :—

Diphtheria	..... Nil ;	Dysentery	..... 3 ;
Scarlet Fever	..... 25 ;	Paratyphoid	..... 2 ;
Polio myelitis	..... 2 ;	Erysipelas	..... 4 ;
	Meningitis	..... 4.	

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

We were reluctantly obliged to institute the following prosecutions during the year :—

Offence.	Result.
Structural defects at 84 Water Street, Aberavon, Port Talbot.	Case adjourned for one month on an assurance given that the work would be carried out within that time. At the re-hearing a Court Order was imposed for the work to be done within two months and costs awarded to the Corporation.
Structural defects at 10 Maesteg Road, Bryn.	Order given for the work to be done within three months and costs awarded to the Corporation.
Structural defects at 35 Mabel Street, Aberavon.	Case adjourned for two months as an Undertaking was given that the owner would agree to pay the costs of the repairs carried out by the local authority. At the re-hearing, however, the Court gave a further Order for one month and at the second re-hearing another adjournment for one month was given with costs awarded to the Corporation.

Structural defects at 37  
Mabel Street, Aberavon.

Structural defects at 5  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Structural defects at 6  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Structural defects at 15  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Structural defects at 16  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Structural defects at 19  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Structural defects at 20  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Structural and sanitary  
defects at 43 Arthur St.,  
Aberavon.

Structural and sanitary  
defects at 6 Carlos Street,  
Port Talbot.

Disobedience of Court  
Order in respect of struc-  
tural and sanitary defects  
at 5 Cornwall Street,  
Aberavon.

Case adjourned for two months as  
an Undertaking was given that the  
owner would agree to pay the costs  
of the repairs carried out by the  
local authority. At the re-hearing,  
however, the Court gave a further  
Order for one month and at the  
second re-hearing another adjourn-  
ment for one month was given with  
costs awarded to the Corporation.

Case adjourned for 14 days. At the  
re-hearing the work had been done  
and costs were awarded to the  
Corporation.

Case adjourned for 14 days. At the  
re-hearing the work had been done  
and costs were awarded to the  
Corporation.

Adjourned 14 days. At the re-  
hearing an Order was made to do the  
work in two months and costs were  
awarded to the Corporation.

Case adjourned for 14 days. At the  
re-hearing an Order was made to do  
the work in two months and costs  
were awarded to the Corporation.

Case adjourned for 14 days. At the  
re-hearing an Order was made to do  
the work in two months and costs  
were awarded to the Corporation.

Case adjourned for 14 days. At the  
re-hearing an Order was made to do  
the work in two months and costs  
were awarded to the Corporation.

Order given for the work to be done  
within three months and costs  
awarded to the Corporation.

Order given for the work to be done  
within two months and costs  
awarded to the Corporation.

Case adjourned for one month for  
the purpose of allowing the Corpora-  
tion to consider whether it was  
prepared to do the work in default  
and recover the costs. The matter  
was still under consideration by the  
end of the year.

Structural defects at  
Pencastell Farm, Bryn.

Structural defects at 40  
Gwendoline Street,  
Aberavon.

Disobedience of Order of  
Court in respect of struc-  
tural defects at 10  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Structural defects at 2  
Cornwall Street,  
Aberavon.

Disobedience of Order of  
Court in respect of struc-  
tural repairs at 37 Mabel  
Street, Aberavon.

Structural and sanitary  
defects at 34 Tanygroes  
Street, Port Talbot.

Non-compliance with  
Court Order in respect of  
structural and sanitary  
defects at 34 Tanygroes  
Street, Port Talbot.

Sanitary defects at 27  
Pentyla, Aberavon.

Case adjourned for one month to  
allow the work which had been  
commenced to be finished. At the  
re-hearing the work still not having  
been done a Court Order was  
obtained for two months and costs  
awarded to the Corporation.

The work having been commenced  
the case was adjourned for one  
month. At the second hearing the  
work was still in progress and a  
further month's adjournment was  
given. At the final hearing the  
work having been abated costs were  
awarded to the Corporation.

The Order extended for a further  
period of two months and thereafter  
a daily penalty of 2/- to be incurred.  
Within this time, however, the  
premises became vacant, the tenant  
being re-housed by the Corporation.  
The Owner signed an Undertaking  
that all works outstanding would be  
carried out before the property was  
re-let.

Order given for work to be done  
within two months and costs  
awarded to the Corporation.

An Order was given for the work to  
be carried out within two months  
with a fine of 1/- per day for each  
day the nuisance continued there-  
after.

Order given for the work to be  
carried out within three months.  
Costs were awarded to the Corpora-  
tion.

A second Court Order was made  
imposing a daily penalty of 1/- per  
day the Order to be suspended for  
three months to give a further  
opportunity for the work to be done.

Order given for the work to be done  
within a month and costs awarded to  
the Corporation.



Structural defects at 41  
Greenpark Street,  
Aberavon.

Case adjourned for one month. At the re-hearing an Order was imposed for the work to be done within two months. Costs awarded to the Corporation.

Structural defects at 3  
Mervyn Terrace,  
Cwmavon.

Order given for the work to be done within two months and costs awarded to the Corporation.

Non-compliance with  
Court Order in respect of  
structural defects at 3  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Case adjourned for 14 days and then the work having been completed costs were awarded to the Corporation.

Non-compliance with  
Court Order in respect of  
structural defects at 8  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Case adjourned for 14 days and then for another month during which time the work was completed. Costs were awarded to the Corporation.

Non-compliance with  
Court Order in respect of  
structural defects at 9  
Maesteg Road, Bryn.

Case adjourned for 14 days and then for another month during which time the work was completed. Costs were awarded to the Corporation.

Structural and sanitary  
defects at 5 Cornwall St.,  
Aberavon.

Order given for the work to be done within one month and costs awarded to the Corporation.

Structural defects at 6  
Cornwall Street,  
Aberavon.

Case adjourned for six weeks on an assurance given that the work would be done within that period. At the re-hearing the nuisance having been abated, costs were awarded to the Corporation.

Structural and sanitary  
defects at 10 Cornwall  
Street, Aberavon.

Case adjourned for six weeks on an assurance given that the work would be done within that period. At the final hearing the Court was informed that the nuisance had been abated and costs were awarded to the Corporation.

Structural defects at 19  
Cornwall Street,  
Aberavon.

Case adjourned for six weeks on an assurance given that the works would be done within that period. At the final hearing the works having been completed, costs were awarded to the local authority.

Structural defects at 21  
Cornwall Street,  
Aberavon.

Case adjourned for six weeks on an assurance given that the works would be done within that period. At the final hearing the work having been completed, costs were awarded to the Corporation.

Structural defects at 27  
Mabel Street, Aberavon.

Case adjourned for six weeks on an assurance given that the works would be done within that period. At the re-hearing the work having been commenced a further period of one month was allowed with the imposition of a fine of 1/- per day for each day on which the nuisance continued thereafter. Costs were awarded to the Corporation.

Structural and sanitary  
defects at 4 Mabel Street,  
Aberavon.

Case adjourned for six weeks on an assurance given that the works would be done within that period. At the re-hearing the work having been commenced the Court extended the Order for a further period of two months with a fine of 1/- per day for each day on which the nuisance continued thereafter. Costs were awarded to the Corporation.



